

SECOND EDITION

Lutheranism 101

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GETTING STARTED

The beginning is a crucial part of any journey; it can set you up for success or leave you scrambling to get on board. In this introductory section, you will learn how this book is organized and some basics that will set a foundation for the parts that follow.

Introduction

What Is This Book?

Lutheranism 101 gives you a quick, usable, and comprehensive overview of Lutheran faith and practice. While we have tried not to grind any axes, we would be less than living, breathing human beings if we told you that what you have here is totally impartial and neutral. First, we must acknowledge that we are writing about Lutheranism from an American perspective. So in discussions of customs, history, and missions, Lutherans in other parts of the world (and there are many!) will have a different perspective. We are also writing from within a tradition in the Lutheran Church that is identified as orthodox and confessional. The term *orthodox* simply means correct or right belief. The term *confessional* has come to mean different things to different people, but at their heart these two terms signify those who model what they believe, teach, and confess on God's Word and the historic teachings (Confessions) of the Lutheran Church as they are contained in the Book of Concord. Finally, we have to acknowledge that a book of this size is inadequate to cover the entire length and breadth of our subject. However, what you now hold in your hand is a good place to start your exploration of Lutheran belief and practice.

Who Are Those People?

People with many different backgrounds and positions contributed to *Lutheranism 101*—from presidents to pastors to professors to parents. Some of us have advanced degrees; some of us don't. Some of us are lifelong Lutherans; some of us aren't. Be assured that at some point all of us were once right where you are now: wondering about this thing called Lutheranism. We learned by attending worship services, asking questions of our pastors, and reading the Bible, among other things. You can do the same! If at any time you want to know more about a particular topic covered in *Lutheranism 101*, just ask your pastor or refer to the Basic Christian Library found in the Appendix.

Don't Be Afraid of the Latin

. . . or of the Hebrew, Greek, or German for that matter.

Every area of life has its own technical terms or jargon. Computers, car maintenance, a visit to the hardware store, and even cooking all have their own special words. It's no different for Lutheran Christians. We have many foreign words, or words taken into English from other languages. But why do we need them?

Unfortunately, the meanings of words change over time. This presents a danger: words that once communicated the Christian faith with perfect clarity are now no longer understood or have changed meanings. When this happens, those old words are often kept as technical terms, especially if our modern language doesn't have any words that still capture the full meaning of the old words. This sort of thing has been happening for centuries, especially as the Church has changed languages, and it's why we have so many technical terms. These words are like shorthand or abbreviations. They say something profound with just a few letters. These old terms, if explained, are lovely and meaningful. They are a way in which the wisdom, faith, and love of ages past are handed down to us.

Ultimately, since we desired to speak and write accurately about God, we could not avoid using some Lutheran-specific terms and the various languages of Scripture and theology used by the Church. However, we have inserted special icons, definitions, and translations to help you understand what is meant when these terms and words are used.

Abbreviations

- AE Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*. American Edition. Volumes 1–30: Edited by Jaroslav Pelikan. St. Louis: Concordia, 1955–76. Volumes 31–55: Edited by Helmut Lehmann. Philadelphia/Minneapolis: Muhlenberg/Fortress, 1957–86. Volumes 56–75: Edited by Christopher Boyd Brown. St. Louis: Concordia, 2009–.
- LW Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Lutheran Worship*. St. Louis: Concordia, 1982.
- TDP *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2008.
- TLSB *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2009.

Lutheran Confessions

You will see many quotations from the Lutheran Confessions as found in the Book of Concord. The following list provides abbreviations used, what they mean, and examples of how you would find the text.

- AC Augsburg Confession
- Ap Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- BEC A Brief Exhortation to Confession
- Ep Epitome of the Formula of Concord
- FC Formula of Concord

SA	Smalcald Articles
SC	Small Catechism
SD	Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord
Tr	Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope

Examples

AC XX 4 (Augsburg Confession, Article XX, paragraph 4)

Ap IV 229 (Apology of the AC, Article IV, paragraph 229)

FC SD X 24 (Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, Article X, paragraph 24)

FC Ep V 8 (Epitome of the Formula of Concord, Article V, paragraph 8)

LC V 32, 37 (Large Catechism, Part 5, paragraphs 32 and 37)

SA III I 6 (Smalcald Articles, Part III, Article I, paragraph 6)

Tr 5 (Treatise, paragraph 5)

Navigating Lutheranism 101

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Quotes from Martin Luther



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Connecting theology, faith, and life



NEED TO KNOW

Terms and phrases quickly defined



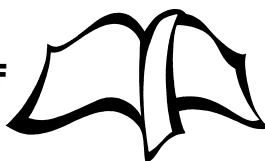
FROM THE BIBLE

Quotations from, well, the Bible



TECHNICAL STUFF

Big theological concepts in bite-size pieces



BELIEVE, TEACH, CONFESS

Quotations from the Lutheran Confessions



Reader's Guide to Scripture's Essential Teachings

These references are presented to encourage the study of and meditation on the essential teachings of Scripture. This is by no means an exhaustive list, nor are all the great topics found in Scripture listed. In addition to being included in personal devotions, these references can serve as an outline for discussion or confession of the faith.

Creation and the Doctrine of Man

Genesis 1–2
 Job 10:8–12; 38:8–9,
 19–20
 Genesis 3

Justification by Grace through Faith

Ephesians 2:16
 Romans 8:6–8
 Romans 3:23–24
 2 Corinthians 5:21
 Romans 4:25
 1 Corinthians 15:20–23
 1 Peter 1:3–4
 John 3:17–18
 Ephesians 2:8–9
 Romans 6:3–4; 8:1–4

Sanctification

Philippians 4:4, 8
 Romans 8:2–11

One God in Three Persons

Isaiah 44:6
 Deuteronomy 4:35;
 6:4–19
 1 Corinthians 8:6
 Genesis 1:26

Baptism of Jesus; Transfiguration of Jesus

John 14:9–10
 Matthew 28:19
 Ephesians 2:18
 1 John 4:13
 1 Corinthians 12:3
 2 Corinthians 3:18

The Nature of God

Psalms 40:11, 51:1; 54:1;
 85:7
 Psalm 10:15; 59:5; 80:4
 Psalm 53:2–3, 5
 John 3:16
 Psalm 85:4–7
 Psalm 86:15
 Romans 1:16–17
 1 John 4:8–10

Jesus Christ: the God-man

John 1:1–4, 14, 16
 Luke 2:1–20
 Hebrews 2:14–18; 4:15
 1 Peter 2:22–24; 3:18

The Means of Grace

2 Corinthians 5:19
 Romans 3:21–28
 Romans 1:16
 Matthew 28:19
 Ephesians 5:26
 Titus 3:3–6
 Romans 6:3–10
 Colossians 2:12–13
 1 Corinthians 12:12–13
 Matthew 26:26–29
 Mark 14:22–25
 Luke 22:15–20
 1 Corinthians 10:14–22;
 11:17–34
 Revelation 19:7–9

The Church of Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 1:9
 Ephesians 1:18; 4:11
 Colossians 1:12–20
 1 Corinthians 6:11
 Galatians 3:26–29
 1 Peter 2:9–10
 Hebrews 10:25
 Ephesians 4:1–16
 Ephesians 2:20