

accredited universities are run by the LCMS) and Christian education for children. That's why churches, like First Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, have operated Christian day schools (First Lutheran's school opened in 1869). Students at the University of Tennessee are served by the LCMS via Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Christ-centered Worship

Lutheran worship varies by location, but in many ways, Lutheran worship is known to transcend time and cultures, employing litanies and psalms from the Bible, early Christian hymnody, the rich Lutheran chorales of Bach, the hymns of Luther, and modern hymns and spiritual songs that confess Jesus as the Christ and articles of the Christian faith with integrity.

More Information

For more on these and other topics see www.lcms.org. The Lutheran Confessions are also available online at www.bookofconcord.com.

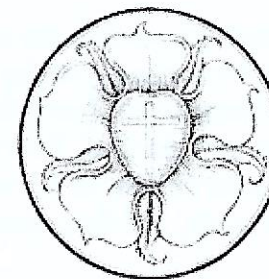
First Lutheran invites you to worship with us and to speak to our pastors and members. Welcome!

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Campus Ministry: <http://www.utklutheran.org>



*About the
Lutheran Christian
Faith*

Centered in Jesus Christ

Above all, the Lutheran Christian faith desires to be faithfully centered in Jesus Christ and strives to let the Gospel of His life, teachings, death, and resurrection from the dead be the center of all we profess and do.

The Biblical witness describes Jesus as the only way of salvation (John 14:6). The reason for this is the reality that sin is the universal corruption affecting all humankind. According to the Scriptures, sin causes complete separation from God. Yet God, who is loving and kind, sent Jesus to atone for the sins of the whole world, to free all mankind from bondage of sin, and thus open up heaven to all who believe in Christ.

Not only this, but the same Jesus rose again in the flesh! He shows the world that He is God and Savior, and gives us every reason to hope in eternal life with Him and all the faithful who have gone before us.

Jesus put His stamp of approval on the Old Testament as the Word of God (John 10, Luke 24). He taught that all the Scriptures were written “concerning me.” Therefore the Old Testament, along with the New Testament, is normative of what Lutherans believe and teach about Jesus and His church today.

A confession within Christianity

The name “Lutheran” indicates a confession within the one holy, Christian church, rather than a denomination. However, the name Lutheran is also used in the title of many denominations across the globe (e.g. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod).

Lutherans confess the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian) and the documents in *The Book of Concord* as a true and faithful teaching of the Scriptures. Luther’s catechisms help Christians teach the faith to children and adults.

Distinguishing and applying two main teachings in Scripture: Law and Gospel.

The *Law* is everything that God demands we do in order to be right with Him and attain salvation. Its chief purpose is to show our sin and failure to attain life and salvation on our own.

The *Gospel* is everything that God has done to forgive our sins and make us right with Him forever. Its purpose is to show the world’s Savior Jesus Christ and the salvation that is delivered through faith in Him.

The Law is given to the unrepentant, the Gospel to comfort those recognizing their sins and seeking God’s grace and forgiveness.

A Brief History

The Lutheran Christian confession began in the 16th century, largely because of a German pastor and professor of the Bible named Martin Luther. Luther recognized wide-spread abuses in the Western church (described in *The Book of Concord* and in Luther’s writings). His and his colleagues’ efforts to restore or reform Christianity to a more faithful confession and practice became known as the Protestant Reformation. They did not seek a radical break from the church, but were finally excommunicated by those whom Luther and his followers believed to be the chief abusers.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is an American collection of Lutheran churches (“synod” means walking together). Though Lutherans immigrants appeared in very early America, a certain group of Germans from Saxony seeking religious freedom immigrated to Missouri in the 1800s. The LCMS officially organized in the United States in 1847 under C.F.W. Walther. They intend to vigorously make known the love of God in Christ.

As a synod, the LCMS values education for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers, for young adults (ten nationally