



Redeemer
Lutheran Church

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CALLED “LUTHERAN”?

For hundreds of years Christians have split up into many different groups based on their place of origin, history, theology, race, or ethnicity.

Because every group is distinct, folks who aren't members often don't know what to expect from a particular congregation.

**For the Lutheran community that comes together
for worship each Sunday
at Redeemer Lutheran Church
in Columbus, Ohio**

**this is what *we* mean by
“Lutheran”:**

God's work



Our hands.

WE ARE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE EVANGELICAL

We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and our articles of incorporation identify us as Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Evangelical means that we center our lives on the Good News, or Gospel, of Jesus as the Christ of God. In other words, evangelical Lutherans are Good News people—to the core.

Our form of *evangelical* does not make us part of the conservative movement currently associated with the “religious right” in the United States.

Being evangelical shapes how we look at the Bible and the Word of God.

- We read the Bible through the lens of radical grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, and unbounded love— that is, the Gospel.
- As Martin Luther taught, we do not give equal weight to all parts of the Bible. Rather, that which is centered in the Gospel has ultimate authority among us.
- The Word of God is made known in the life of Jesus, whom we call the Christ of God.
- The Word is also proclaimed in sermons and received through the sacraments.

Good News people are justified by grace.

- We believe God's grace, or unconditional love, is the firm foundation of our lives.
- By the power of the Spirit of God, we begin each day as forgiven people, whose brokenness does not dismiss God's love for us and our neighbors.
- We are eternally empowered to walk boldly into God's promised life of peace, wholeness, and love—that is, salvation.
- Marked by the Cross of Christ, we turn away from the violence of the world to embrace and serve the lost, least, and lowest among us.

OUR TRADITIONS ARE ANCIENT YET ALIVE

Our traditions allow us to honor and remember the saints of old, our ancestors in the faith, and beloved teachers.

Our ancient foundations give us a starting point from which we are transformed by the living Word of God.

Tradition is never the ending point but instead the beginning—like a set of training wheels that give us an opportunity for new life.



Our traditions are deep and wide.

- We share ancient creeds (the Apostles and the Nicene) that link us to the historic articulation of the Christian faith.
- We hold to the historic selection of writings that make up the books of the Bible.
- As in the first-century church, the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are central to our life together. We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.
- Our worship follows a basic order, or liturgy, which reaches back to the early church. As a result, some parts of our worship service are very similar to parts of Roman Catholic and Episcopal services.
- Our worship includes processions led by the cross to remind us that we are followers of Jesus.
- Individual members may mark themselves with the sign of the cross as a reminder of their baptism in Christ.
- Along with many other Christians worldwide, we follow a common lectionary, which is a 3-year cycle of biblical readings. This makes it possible to enter a congregation anywhere in the world and likely hear the same story being read.
- Our worship and our life together follow a calendar that revolves around the resurrection of Jesus. The seasons of the liturgical year are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.



WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH AND QUESTION

As the church of the Reformation,
we continue to challenge
the status quo.

When the institution of the church is heavy-handed and controlling or claims to have a monopoly on what is right and good, we open the doors and windows of our lives to experience the expansiveness of God's Spirit.

When other religious voices cling to words of fear, condemnation, and legalism, we insist on mercy, loving-kindness, justice, and hope.

We risk allowing the old to give way to the new—although sometimes we resist the new as not being of Christ.



When the church is truly alive, it is always changing and growing.

- The real but often-messy world is where we followers of Jesus look for ways to translate our character into the language of the day at hand.
- We want our language, our fellowship, our leadership, our teaching and preaching, and our service within the world to reflect the diversity within God’s wide embrace.
- In the light of the Gospel, our lives always turn toward the well-being of those considered the least and the lowest among us, who were once left out but now are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- We do not walk away or hide ourselves from the issues and concerns of the world and the society around us. We live with questions rather than running from them.
- When the way forward is unclear, we talk and pray and argue and listen and act, and then we



do it all again and again—to the glory of God.

- We try to maintain a sense of humor to accompany us on a path we may not always have chosen to travel.

This is the kind of Lutheran community that
comes together for worship each Sunday
at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
(10:00 a.m. in the summer)

at

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*Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all—
an adventure for life!*