

WELCOME TO REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are Lutheran Christians.

Who are Lutherans?

Lutherans are part of the whole Christian church.

In the Apostles' Creed, we say that we believe in the "catholic" church. That means we believe that the church is universal, that we are part of all Christianity.

What makes us Lutheran?

It all started in the sixteenth century, shortly after Columbus discovered America! At that time the Roman Catholic Church was THE CHURCH and it influenced people's lives in political as well as religious ways.



One Roman Catholic monk saw things he didn't like going on — things like corruption and self-serving teachings. He had a lot of complaints--95 of them to be exact. He took the bold move of outlining them in a document known as *The 95 Theses*. HE posted this document on the door of a church at a busy time when he knew authorities would notice.

This was Martin Luther.

THE CHURCH at that time carried political clout. It was dangerous to question its authority. To make a long but exciting story short, Martin Luther got into trouble and had to go into hiding. But his ideas could not be stopped. With the help of the newfangled printing press, his ideas spread across Europe. Eventually, Martin Luther was able to come out of hiding. His ideas had caught on, and the Reformation was underway. Martin Luther was a great thinker and teacher and lived to be respected as such.

Martin Luther had set out to reform THE CHURCH. It was not his intent to start a sect named after him. But that is what happened.

Many other sects have their roots in the same Reformation. Other church leaders, influenced by Martin Luther, founded other Protestant sects with slightly different emphases and traditions. But all of Protestantism has been influenced in some way or can trace its roots to the daring acts of Martin Luther. Even modern Roman Catholicism recognizes his contribution to today's church.

Lutheranism started in Germany and spread quickly throughout Scandinavia. Its passion for mission work created strong Lutheran churches throughout the world, including Japan, India, many African countries, much of North America and South America. We at Redeemer are a living example of the diversity of the modern Lutheran church.

Today, the Lutheran church honors, respects and builds on the thinking of Martin Luther. . . but we do not worship him!

What do Lutherans believe?

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is Savior.
2. We believe that the Bible is the word of God and is a source of Christian love, guidance and doctrine.
3. We believe, with many other Christian groups, in the words of the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed and the less frequently read Athanasian Creed.
4. We emphasize the belief that we are justified before God by faith. We live in freedom of Christian love and not by strict lists of dos and don'ts.
5. We believe in working with other Christian churches (ecumenism).
6. We believe in Christian community, that as individual Christians we are part of community. Doing things together, as groups, is important to Lutherans. This includes worship and learning as well as fellowship and service.

Our basic understandings are:

- The Bible is the Word of God.
 - God is understood through the Trinity -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - We are separated from God by sin. We were created by God, we sinned, and we cannot return to God on our own, but we are reunited with God through God's grace and our faith.
 - Jesus died to save the world from sin.
 - We need to repent and ask for God's forgiveness
 - The church is made up of all God's people.
 - There are two sacraments — Baptism, which establishes new life and remakes a person in God's spirit, and The Lord's Supper, which brings us in direct contact with God through the body and blood of Jesus.
 - Creeds, which we recite together regularly, summarize the Bible teachings.
 - Religion and science are not in conflict.
 - The Gospel teachings offer grace to all believers.
 - Faith is a confessed sinner's acceptance of Christ as Savior.
 - Prayer is communication directly with God.
 - Evil is a reality. It goes by many names and is the enemy of God and his church.
 - Religious education is a responsibility of all Christians, beginning with the Christian home.
 - Church and State are separate. Christians can work within both.
- The one overall teaching that characterizes Lutherans is that we are saved only by the grace of God through faith in Christ.

How do we worship?

Lutherans worship in many ways. Generally we follow a traditional mass format.

The worship service can be viewed as a conversation between God and his people. The idea that we are worshiping as one people sets the tone of the Lutheran service. We are speaking to God as a group. All parts of the service are seen as part of that conversation. For example, a soloist or choir

is singing to the glory of God, to enrich the conversation between God and his people.

The worship service starts with the people confessing their sins, quickly followed by the minister, speaking for God, absolving or forgiving them. The people of God respond with a hymn of praise, a plea for mercy and more hymns of praise scattered throughout the service.

We take a few moments to listen to scripture, God's Word for us. The readings usually include an Old Testament lesson, a psalm (often sung responsively), a reading from the epistles or letters of the New Testament, followed by a reading from one of the four Gospels. We stand and sing a special hymn of praise in respect for the gospel.

The sermon follows the Gospel and adds insight into the day's readings.

Following the sermon, the people stand to express their unity of belief by reciting either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. We greet one another with a Christian greeting. We then speak to God as a community in prayer.

On some Sundays, the first Sunday of the month at Redeemer, we enter a celebration of the Eucharist at this point. We share in God's sacrifice for us in Holy Communion. In thanksgiving for God's gracious love, we make our offerings to God to support his ministry.

The service closes with God's blessing for his people (benediction) and music.

A Lutheran service features music. Martin Luther was a musician. One of the greatest musicians of all time, Bach, is part of our musical heritage. Today, we sing hymns from many traditions—including the modern rock, folk, and gospel hymns. We also accept dance, poetry, drama and the visual arts as expressions of Christianity.

Lutherans use symbolism. Our sanctuary, especially at our stained glass windows, contain many images with special meaning to us as Christians.

Lutherans emphasize the importance of preaching and the study of God's word.

How do we witness?

Lutherans believe in sharing the Good News! It is impossible to be a Christian in isolation; Christ demands otherwise. We believe that a relationship with a Christian community helps us to mature in our relationship with God. We believe in personal witness, in sharing scripture, in prayer, and by living lives of personal example.

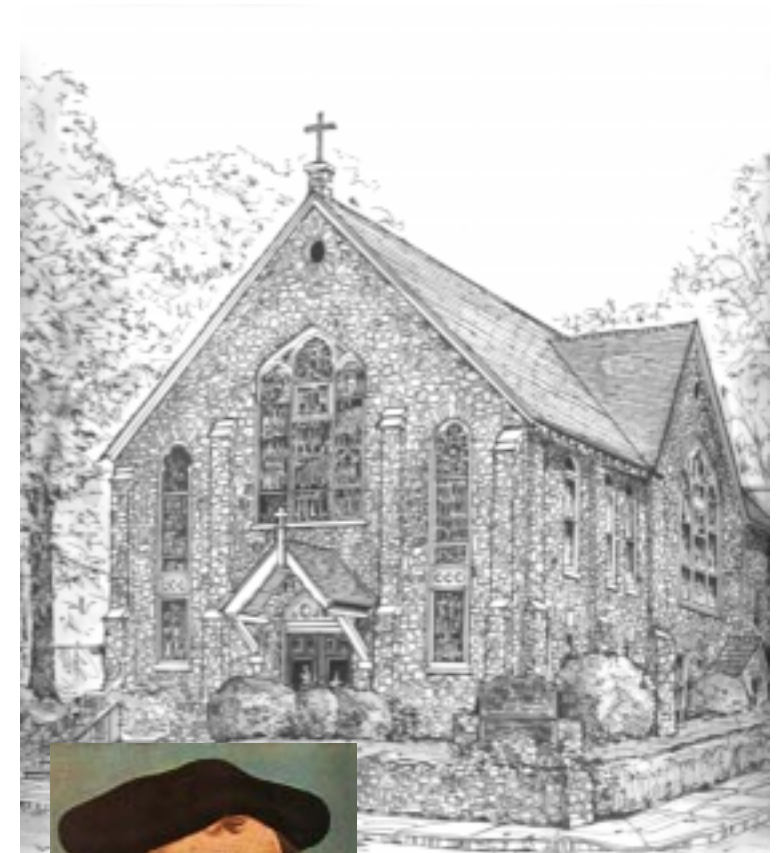
We believe that as Christians we are responsible for each other. Community makes that possible. Therefore, we witness in fellowship. Most services are followed by light refreshments and a chance to share with one another. Most fellowship hours are lively, with older people chatting, youngsters playing and youth picking up a game of checkers or Uno! What may seem superficial is important community building! We build on this foundation of fellowship to reach out to others in the community.

It is the responsibility of all in the Christian community to give time and talent to the church, whether it be in teaching or learning, singing or praying, visiting or witnessing, charity or leadership.

Lutherans see themselves as modern disciples, not just as church members.

Our invitation

We invite you to be part of our long tradition and to find support for your Christian purpose in our community. Please speak with any church member. We will be glad to join you in serving our Lord and Saviour.



**RECOMMIT
REVIVE
REFRESH
REDEEMER**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome!

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

Bible Study (all ages), Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

www.redeemereastfalls.org

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