

## History Seminar: Protestant Denominations

### Session No. 5: The Lutherans

#### Lutheran History: *Where Did They Come From?*

- **Soil:** Lutheranism Originates in Germany with **Martin Luther (1517)**.
  - Who Protested What the Church's **Authority** Is: *Scripture Alone*
  - Who Protested What the Church's **Gospel** Is: *Justification by Faith Alone*
- **Roots:** Lutheranism Began as **Political Reform Movement** in the Holy Roman Empire
  - Sparked by Luther's Excommunication at the Diet of **Worms (1521)**.
  - Identified by Luther's Opponents as "**Lutherans**" (1525).
  - Opposed by the Roman Catholic **Counter-Reformation (1545-1648)**.
  - Recognized as Politically Legitimate at the **Peace of Augsburg (1555)**.



- **Shoots: Lutheranism**  
Developed **Theologically, Liturgically, and Politically**
  - Theologically Unified by the **Book of Concord (1580)**.
  - Liturgically Mirrored the **Roman Catholic Church**
  - Politically Spread as **State Religions** at Odds with Catholic States
  
- **Fruits: Lutheranism Generally Subdivided Today Into Two Associations:**
  - The More Liberal **Lutheran World Federation: *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Most Prominent American Member***
  - The More Conservative **International Lutheran Council: *Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Most Prominent American Member***

## Lutheran Theology: *What Do They Believe?*

- Lutheran Theology Summarized by Ten Documents, Collectively Called **The Book of Concord (1580)**:
  - **Apostle's Creed**  
(c.100's): *Baptismal Creed Used in Early Church*
  - **Nicene Creed (325)**: *Clarifies the Trinity*
  - **Athanasian Creed (c.500's-700's)**: *Further Clarifies the Trinity*
  - **Luther's Small Catechism (1529)**: *Tool to Educate Laity on Fundamentals of the Faith*
  - **Luther's Large Catechism (1529)**: *Expanded Tool Consisting of Re-Edited Sermons*
  - **Augsburg Confession (1530)**: *Chief Lutheran Confession of Faith*
  - **Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1531)**: *Lengthy Defense of Augsburg Confession*



- **Smalcald Articles (1536):** *Articles of Faith Outlining Lutheran Non-Negotiables*
  
- **Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (1537):** *Supplement to Augsburg Confession*
  
- **Formula of Concord (1577):** *Clarification of Disputed Doctrines in Augsburg Confession*

### **Lutheran Distinctives: *What Else Distinguishes Them?***

- **How They Organize:** Lutherans Cooperate Regionally or Nationally with Synods.
  
- **Why They Baptize:** Lutherans Believe Baptism Saves (Baptismal Regeneration)
  
- **View of the Lord's Supper:** Lutherans Believe Jesus Is Present In, With, and Under the Bread and Wine (Consubstantiation)