



# Goahead Theological Seminary & College

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## What is Lutheranism?

The Lutheran Church (English: Lutheran Church, German: Lutherische Kirche, Lutheranism) is a Protestant denomination that follows the ideas of Martin Luther in the 16th century.

The Lutheran Church claims to be the eldest or first child of Protestantism.

It formed an important theological background for the Reformation, and in particular, it contributed to the formation of Protestant Catholicism, a theological reformism that sought to improve the Western Church following the traditions of the early church and the Catholic Church.

### Origin of the name Lutheran Church:

When the Roman Catholic Pope abused the issuance of indulgences to secure funds for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica, Martin Luther protested by posting his Ninety-five Theses on the bulletin board of the Church of All Saints in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517.

Martin Luther originally did not intend to found a new denomination, but this became a major reason for his reform of the Catholic Church, aimed at the papal throne in the Vatican. This act of reform led him to purify the church of superstitions and customs without biblical basis, and to examine and reform the pure faith of Christianity.

According to the website of the Korean Lutheran Church, the term "Lutheran" was used by followers of the Pope of Rome to slander Lutherans, derogatorily referring to them as "Lutheran idiots." Later, the term became established as a name for the Lutheran Church itself.

Since then, the Lutheran Church has spread throughout the world, centered in Northern Europe. While the Lutheran Church uses personal names, this wasn't always the case. Luther himself opposed calling his followers by his name, "Luther."

Martin Luther said, "I asked people not to mention my name any more, and not to call us Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? My doctrine is certainly not my own. I was not crucified for anyone. In 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul forbade those who called themselves Paulists or Peterites." How on earth could I, a weak and ugly corpse like me, give Christ's children a name derived from my worthless name? No, no! My friends! Put away all the names of factions and call us Christians, after the name of Him who holds the doctrine of Christ."

Lutherans believe that the Church of Christ is one throughout the world. Regarding the Church, Luther said, "We teach that there is one holy Church, which will endure forever. This Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. And for the true unity of the Church, agreement in the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments is sufficient. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, human-made rites and



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ceremonies, should be the same everywhere. As the Apostle Paul says, "There is one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:5-6). Augsburg Confession, Article 7

## Theological Debate and Consistency:

After Martin Luther's death, Lutheran thought in Germany was divided into two factions: the "Philippians," representing Melancthonian humanism centered in Wittenberg, and the "orthodox Lutherans," centered around Ena. The Articles of Unity (1577) were a mediation of the various disputes between these groups and adopted the arguments advanced in their debates with Calvinism. The Articles of Unity were published alongside other Lutheran creeds in the "Book of Unity" (1580), commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

## The spread of the Lutheran Church:

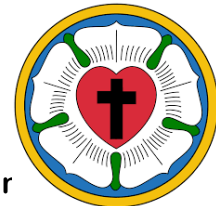
### Northern Europe:

After the Reformation in the 16th century, the Lutheran Church developed from the German Lutheran Church to the European Lutheran Church.

Prussia after 1525,

After 1527, the Nordic empires of Sweden and Finland,

Denmark and Norway after 1537,



After 1539, it held a dominant position in Iceland and several Baltic countries later introduced to some other parts of Eastern Europe. In Germany, the period from the Book of Concord until the late 17th century was the era of Lutheran orthodoxy. Orthodoxy was subsequently replaced by Pietism, which was followed by the Enlightenment. From the 19th century onward, Lutheranism gradually evolved in response to various theological trends. The Lutheran Church in Northern Europe followed the traditions of the Old Church and was virtually identical to the Anglican Church in all aspects. So, Northern European Lutheranism is largely maintained as an episcopal church, maintaining the three offices of bishop, priest, and deacon, and using the title of priest for clergy, unlike in Korea.

### Oceania and America:

Lutheranism in the Americas and Oceania began primarily with the influx of immigrants from Europe. Some Lutherans, fleeing the ravages of the Thirty Years' War in Europe, immigrated to America, where they were initially shepherded by pastors from European missionary societies. Muhlenberg, known as the "Father of American Lutheranism," was sent by the Franke-Halle Mission in 1742 and worked to unite North American Lutherans under a single confession of faith and preserve their purity. He also played a



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major role in organizing Lutherans, leading to the first Lutheran Synod in America in 1748.

## Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS):

The Missouri Synod (LCMS), a sister church of the Korean Lutheran Church, began in 1839 when 750 residents of Saxony, Germany, fled "unionism" and religious rationalism and immigrated to Missouri. Under the leadership of Reverend Walter, these immigrants, along with a group of pastors sent by Röhe from Bavaria, held their first conference in 1847. The Missouri Legislature commemorated the 150th anniversary of the mission in 1997.



Life Ministry | Health Ministry | Family Ministry

## Asia:

The Lutheran churches in Asia and Africa were established primarily by missionaries sent from Europe and the Americas. Even within these two continents, churches in some African countries, such as Tanzania, and in Asia, such as Indonesia, are experiencing remarkable growth.

## Korea:

The first Protestant missionary to enter Korea, Karl Friedrich August Gützlaff, was a Lutheran pastor.

Arrived at Monggeumpo, Hwanghae Province (currently Yongyeon County, South Hwanghae Province, North Korea) on July 17, 1832.

On July 24, 1832, he anchored at Huyang, Godaedo, and on July 25, under the guidance of military officer Tengno and a navigator, he arrived at Wonsan Island in South Chungcheong Province and anchored there. During his 25-day stay, he distributed potatoes and Chinese Bibles to the locals and attempted to translate the Lord's Prayer into Korean.

Full-scale missionary work in Korea began in 1958, with the arrival of the first Korean Lutheran pastor, Ji Won-yong, and three missionaries from the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church in the United States. The Lutheran church

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established at this time is the Christian Lutheran Church of Korea. Its missionary organizations and theological schools include Concordia Publishing, a denominational publisher, Lutheran Hour, a radio broadcaster, and Lutheran University. While the Lutheran Church in Korea retains many Catholic characteristics compared to other mainstream Protestant denominations, it adheres to the traditions of that church within the Lutheran Church.

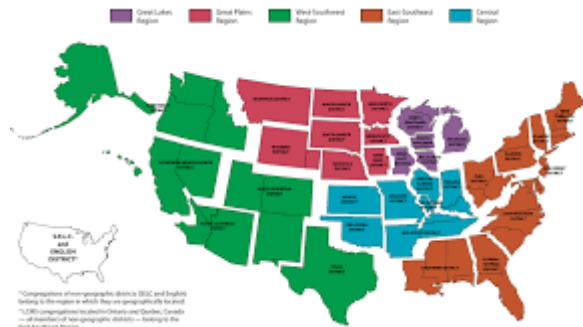
## Lutheran World Federation

### Distribution of Lutherans:

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was founded in 1947 to foster coexistence and cooperation among Lutherans worldwide. It supports Lutheran churches and groups in carrying out the gospel and other church missions, while fostering interest in and participation in the ecumenical movement, a progressive Christian movement that seeks visible Christian unity and the practice of living as disciples of Christ. In addition, as a community, it strives to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Currently, 124 Lutheran churches are member churches, representing over 94% of Lutherans worldwide. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland, alongside the World Council of Churches (WCC). The Korean Lutheran Church joined in 1972.

### Luther's doctrine:

Lutheranism recognizes nine creeds. It professes its faith through the creeds of the ancient church: (1) the Nicene Creed (381), (2) the Apostles' Creed, (3) the Athanasian Creed, and (4) the Augsburg Confession, a confession of faith formulated by Martin Luther. Other creeds include (5) the Apologetics of the Confession of Faith (1530), (6) the Smallkaldic Creed, (7) the Confession of Faith (1537), written by Luther himself, (8) two Catechisms (1529), and (9) the Articles of Concord (1577), written by six Lutheran theologians.



### The Three Pillars of Lutheran Faith:

1. Sola Fide (By Faith Alone)
2. Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone)
3. Sola Scriptura (By Scripture Alone)







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## Relations with other denominations:

Lutheranism clashed with the Reformed Church over issues such as the Eucharist, and took on the role of a supporter of the Dutch Remonstrance (Arminian faction). Consequently, its relationship with the Reformed Church was not good, but denominational unions with the Reformed Church and others are actively underway. According to the History of Christian Worship (translated by Park Geun-won, Korean Christian Literature Society) by German liturgical scholar William Naagel, Luther's ideas also influenced the English Reformation (1520s). The Augsburg Confession became the source for the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England. In Germany, Lutheranism, through its orthodoxy and pietism, deviated from Luther's own ideas and encountered liberal theology, becoming the cradle of liberal theology.

Currently, the Lutheran Church has successors such as Jürgen Moltmann and Wolfhard Pannenberg, who are active in the movement for church unity (WCC), and has signed an agreement on justification with the Roman Catholic Church. Among the Lutherans, the Northern European Lutherans have achieved complete unity with the Anglican Church and are also seeking unity with the Old Catholic Church.



## Lutheran Worship Service:

The Lutheran Church holds liturgical services according to a certain format, and has the following worship style.

1. Candle Lighting and Entrance
2. Confession of Sins and Forgiveness
3. Prayer (Kirie)
4. Gloria in excelsis
5. Greeting and Prayer of the Day





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6. First Scripture Reading
7. Today's Psalm
8. Second Scripture Reading
9. Hymns
10. Gospel Reading
11. Confession of Faith (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed)
12. Sermon
13. Offertory Song
14. Pastoral Prayer
15. Holy Communion
16. Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)
17. Eucharistic Prayer and Institution
18. Our Lord's Prayer
19. Lamb of God (Agnus dei)
20. Distribution of Holy Communion
21. Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis)
22. Prayer
23. Benediction
24. Greeting



(Provided by Pastor Phillip Sang Cho Rey of the New Jersey Korean Lutheran Church)