

## About Us...



St. John's Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. As a church body, we believe that we are a redeemed people won by the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Lutheran Christians, we believe that we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. We know this to be true because the inspired Word of God tells us so. Our Church is **CHRIST-CENTERED** and not centered on the works of people!

We believe that Christ is present in our lives and that it is He alone who works salvation. The salvation that He won for sinful humanity is offered through the means of grace. Repentant sinners, who confess Jesus as Lord, receive life and forgiveness through the Word and Sacraments.

As Lutheran-Christians, we at St. John's believe in the importance of boldly proclaiming the Gospel to **ALL** people! In faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to serve others and provide a ministry of Word and Sacrament to those in need.

## What We Believe...

### God

We believe in the ONE true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in One Divine being.

**The Father** – We believe that God the Father is the creator and preserver of all things.

**The Son** – We believe that the second person of the Trinity is both divine and human. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took flesh and came into the world to be our Saviour. By his innocent suffering and death, he conquered sin, death and the devil. By His glorious resurrection, we are promised life forever with Him.

**The Holy Spirit** – We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier and enabler of faith. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel and works faith in our lives. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can come to know the truth and confess Jesus as Lord.



### Holy Scripture

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Old Testament and the New Testament. All together, there are sixty-six recognized books in the Holy Bible.

The whole point of Scripture is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament promises the coming Saviour and the New Testament tells that the long expected Messiah, Jesus Christ, has come to redeem the world.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that the Bible is the rule and source for all other teachings in the church. Therefore, additional writings such as our Lutheran Confessions and the Small Catechism are secondary. However, these writings are considered a clear and accurate exposition of the Holy Scriptures.



### The Lutheran Confessions

We believe, teach, and confess the articles as found in the Book of Concord of 1580. We believe that the Lutheran Confessions clearly explain the truths as found in Holy Scripture. The Book of Concord includes the three ecumenical creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530, The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, The Smalcald Articles, Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, The Small and Large Catechism and The Formula of Concord.

## The Sacraments

There are two sacraments in the Lutheran Church: Holy Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Both Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper are called a means of grace. Through the means of grace, the Holy Spirit extends to us God's undeserved love. (The Word of God is also considered a means of grace.) The Sacraments of our church are means through which God gives forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Lutherans teach and believe that a Sacrament is a sacred act commanded by God, which offers forgiveness of sins and life everlasting and has a physical element attached.

**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** – Holy Baptism is simple water, God's Word and His command. The water is applied to the person in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This Sacrament offers forgiveness and life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, one is enabled to daily drown their sinful ways and walk in newness of life. Since God alone works in this Sacrament, Lutherans baptize babies and adults (all ages).

**The Sacrament of the Altar** – The Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ under the bread and the wine given to us Christians to eat and drink. We believe, based upon the Words of Jesus, that the body and blood of Jesus is really present in and with the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion. In other words, Jesus truly comes to us in this most blessed meal and offers us forgiveness and life in Him. We believe that one must examine him or herself before receiving the meal. Furthermore, one is truly prepared when the words given and shed for the forgiveness of sins are believed in faith.



## The Luther Seal



### A Prayer Reflecting on Luther's Seal

Your cross, O Christ, upon my heart  
Bespeaks the blessing you impart:  
Your cross did for my sins atone,  
And I am saved by faith alone.

A blooming Flow'r, my life unfolds  
To celebrate the joy it holds:  
Sweet nectar from your bounty flows,  
O Christ my messianic rose.

Encircled in a ring of gold,  
My heav'nly hope I now behold:  
Cross, heart, rose, and blue sky above  
Proclaim the wonders of your love.

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## WHAT WE BELIEVE!



