

# Trinity Lutheran Church

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Adult Catechism

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## Adult Catechism

- Lesson 1 - God's Word and it's Authority
- Lesson 2 - What does the Bible tell us about God? (Doctrine of God)
- Lesson 3 - What is our relationship to the God of the Bible? (Creation)
- Lesson 4 - What went wrong in our Relationship with God? (The fall into sin)

# Trinity Lutheran Church

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## Adult Catechism

- Lesson 5 - The effects of the Fall into sin in our lives
- Lesson 6 - The Law of God
- Lesson 7 - The Ten Commandments: a summary of God's Moral Law
- Lesson 8 - The Gospel
- Lesson 9 - Doctrine of Christ

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## Adult Catechism

- Lesson 10 - Doctrine of Christ, the Two States
- Lesson 11 - Means of Grace
- Lesson 12 - Baptism
- Lesson 13 - Holy Communion
- Lesson 14 - Confession and Absolution
- Lesson 15 - The Church



# Additional Resources

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Luther's Small Catechism: \$7.99

1943 edition

1992 edition

# Additional Resources

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“Light from Above” by Alfred W. Koehler: \$10.99

# Lesson 1

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God's Word (the Bible) and it's Authority

# God's Word and it's authority

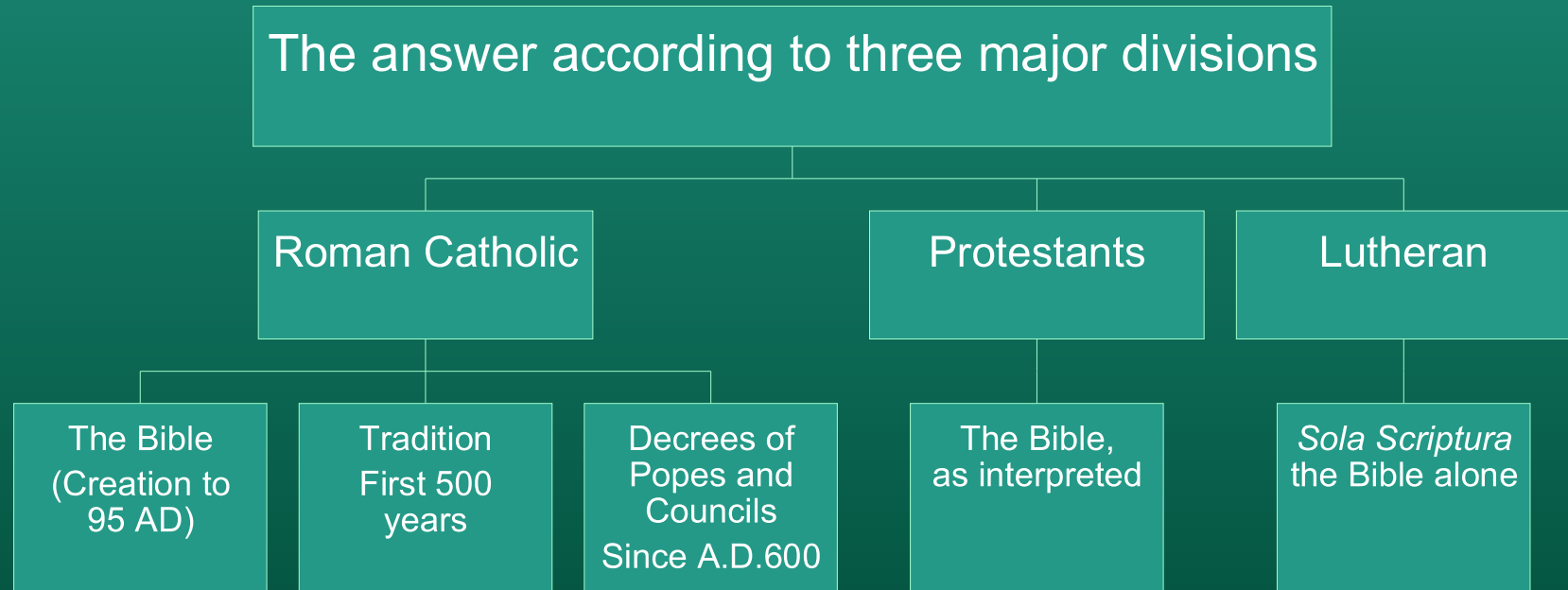
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What are the basic differences among the  
Christian Denominations?

- The main question: Where does the church get it's teachings?

# Where does the Church get its teachings?

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# Where does the Church get its teachings?

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Protestant: The Bible, *as interpreted*

- Who or what is the interpreter?
- Human Reason! Difficult passages therefore must be *reasonable*
- No immediate revelation

# Where does the Church get its teachings?

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Lutheran: *Sola Scriptura*, the Bible alone

- The literal sense of the passage is taken first, unless there is good evidence to do otherwise
- The Bible does not contradict itself
- The Rule of Faith:
  - Doctrine of Justification
  - Body of the Church's teaching

# Our Knowledge of God

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There are two ways to know God

- Natural Knowledge of God
- Revealed Knowledge of God



# Our Knowledge of God

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There are two ways to know God

- Natural Knowledge of God
  - Nature
  - Conscience
- Revealed Knowledge of God
  - God's Word, the Bible

# Our Knowledge of God

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The Revealed Knowledge of God: The Bible  
What does the Bible say about God?

1 Timothy 6:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

# Our Knowledge of God

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The Revealed Knowledge of God: The Bible  
What does the Bible say about God?

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

# Our Knowledge of God

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The Revealed Knowledge of God: The Bible  
What does the Bible say about God?

Acts 14:17 (NIV)

Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

# Various Sources of Revelation in the past

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- Dreams
- Visions
- Miracles
- Prophets
- Jesus

# The Bible: God's self-revelation to us

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## The Purpose of the Bible

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

# The Bible: God's self-revelation to us

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## It's Source: Original Languages

- Hebrew
- Aramaic
- Greek

# Source of the Bible

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## Original Authors

- Some books names after author
  - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, Mark, Luke, etc.
- Some books named for events
  - Exodus, Judges, Kings, Acts
- Some named for contents
  - Deuteronomy, Psalms, Proverbs



# Source of the Bible

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## Human Sources Joshua 10:13 (NIV)

So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.

# Source of the Bible

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Human Sources  
Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

# Source of the Bible

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## Human Sources Jeremiah 36:17-18 (NIV)

Then they asked Baruch, "Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?" "Yes," Baruch replied, "he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll."

# Source of the Bible

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Human Sources  
Romans 1:1, 16:22 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God. . .

I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

# Source of the Bible

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Human Sources  
Galatians 6:11 (NIV)

See what large letters I use as I write to  
you with my own hand!

# The Authority of the Bible

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## The Concept of Inspiration

- 3. Why do we call the Bible the *Holy Scripture*?
- The Bible is the *Holy Scripture* because God the Holy Spirit gave to His chosen writers the thoughts that they expressed and the words that they wrote (**verbal inspiration**). Therefore, the Bible is God's own Word and truth, without error (inerrancy). (From *Luther's Small Catechism*)

# The Authority of the Bible

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## The Concept of Inspiration

- *Verbal Inspiration*: The Holy Spirit carefully guided the process of writing down exactly everything God wanted said, but did it in such a way as to involve the intellect, education, vocabulary and grammar of the original author
  - ▶ Dr. Luke's Gospel is very complex Greek
  - ▶ St. John's Epistles (letters) are very simple

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
- It's prophecies are faithfully fulfilled



# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
  - 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)
    - Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
  - 2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NIV)
    - ...and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
  - ▶ John 10:34-35
    - Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came and the Scripture cannot be broken...”

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
  - ▶ Luke 24:44 (NIV)
    - [Jesus] said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
  - Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV)
    - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
- It's prophecies faithfully fulfilled
  - ▶ Isaiah 7:14 (NIV): Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
  - ▶ Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV): All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us."

# It's Prophecies are faithfully fulfilled

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Micah 5:2 – Matthew 2:4-6 (NIV)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

When [Herod] had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”

# It's Prophecies are faithfully fulfilled

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Joel 2:28-31 – Acts 2:14-21 (NIV)

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.



# It's Prophecies are faithfully fulfilled

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Joel 2:28-31 – Acts 2:14-21 (NIV)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

# The Authority of the Bible

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Why we believe the Old Testament is the Word of God

- The testimony of the New Testament
- The testimony of Jesus
- It's prophecies are faithfully fulfilled

# Why we believe the New Testament is the Word of God

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## ■ The Promises of Jesus

- ▶ John 14:25-26 (NIV) “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
- ▶ John 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”

## ■ The standard of the early Church in selecting the canon

- ▶ Only those books written by Apostles, or under their authority, were accepted as inspired

# Modern Versions

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All English Versions are Translations

- King James Version (KJV) 1611
- Revised Standard Version (RSV)
- New International Version (NIV)
- New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- English Standard Version (ESV) 2001
- Living Bible: Not a translation!