

Glossary of Faith

ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

This is our hymnal, the cranberry-colored book, in the back of the pew. It contains the hymns and psalms referred to by number in the bulletin. This book also contains various patterns of worship, the lectionary, the creeds, and Martin Luther's small catechism.

Bible □

The Bible is a collection of writings that we believe to be the written Word of God, accepted as inspired by God and the authoritative source and norm of the church's faith.

Bulletin

When you enter the sanctuary, one of the ushers will hand you a small booklet containing the order of worship for the day along with other information and announcements.

Church Council □

The Church Council of Faith Lutheran is the governing body elected by the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Congregation

We are a community of believers who assemble regularly for worship and who nurture, organize and carry out ministries among members and the neighborhood. We also join with and support the wider church to share God's boundless love with the world.

Evangelical

We understand this term to mean emphasizing the gospel or good news of salvation received apart from human works and, based on this, we value worship forms and confessions of faith of the historic Christian tradition.

Gospel

A translation of the Greek word for "good news," the gospel tells us of God who created and sustains everything; of Jesus Christ who lived, died and was raised from death to give us life and salvation; and of the Holy Spirit who gives us faith and makes us holy. The four gospels are books in the New Testament that document the life and teachings of Jesus Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

Grace

Martin Luther's emphasis on grace, not our own works, was the keystone of the 16th century Reformation, based on a related key Bible verse: Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity, in addition to God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us in the faith.

Holy Communion

One of two sacraments for Lutherans, the other being Baptism. In Holy Communion, also called the **Eucharist**, we recall the saving acts of God through Word, bread and wine, and are connected with Christ and with Christians of all times and places. In this sacrament we are fed with the body and blood of Christ. It is simply called "Meal" in the bulletin.

Lector

A member of the congregation who has volunteered to read the Scripture lessons during worship.

Liturgist

At Faith, the liturgist is a member of the congregation, usually a choir member, who is selected to help lead service, particularly in the singing of the Psalm.

Liturgy □

From the Greek word for "public service," liturgy is sometimes called "the work of the people of God." It is the rite or body of rites prescribed for public worship, a set order of worship used by the "liturgical churches" such as Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches all over the world.

□□

Luther, Martin □

Trained as a monk and a priest in his native Germany, Martin Luther's efforts to bring reform and renewal to the church were part of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. Though he never wanted a church named after him, he is considered the founder of the Lutheran faith tradition.

Pastor

From the Latin word for "shepherd," "pastor" is used to describe an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. Our pastor Janna Mikkelson serves as preacher, teacher, musician, counselor, and friend to every member of the congregation.

Preaching □

The public proclamation of God's love and mercy for all creation through the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Pastor Janna Mikkelson's preaching, as in most Lutheran churches, is rooted in the readings of Scripture.

Sacrament

A sacrament is the physical sign of an unseen promise. Sacraments are rites of the church that convey God's forgiveness, life and salvation through words and physical means. Lutherans celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Scripture □

A word often used to refer to the Bible; the sacred scriptures include the 66 books that are divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Sermon □

A sermon is part of worship in which the pastor proclaims the Word of God, based on the written Word of God in the Bible and applying it to the worshipping community as appropriate. In the Lutheran liturgy, it comes right after the Bible lessons are read and before the confession of the creed, the offering, and Holy Communion.

Theology

A word used to refer to the study of God and God's interaction with the world. Formal study of theology usually includes study of the Bible, doctrine, church history, ethics and worship, and may also include study of the practice of ministry.

Word of God □

The Word of God -- read, preached and sung by the assembly in worship, is essential to the orders of service in the Lutheran tradition. Lutherans understand the Word of God as: 1) God's incarnate Word made flesh in Jesus, living among us; 2) the word of God proclaimed and heard as law (that which convicts) and gospel (that which frees); and 3) the recorded Word of God in the canonical scriptures