

## Why I Am Not A... Lutheran

### I. History

A. Lutheranism has its roots in the Reformation in 1500's Germany

B. Martin Luther (November 10, 1483 - February 18, 1546)

1. After almost being struck by lightning in July, 1505, he left law school to become a Catholic monk.
2. Taught theology at the University of Wittenberg
3. On October 31, 1517, he nailed his famous *Ninety-Five Theses* to the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg. These dealt mainly with the sale of "indulgences" by the Catholic church and, in particular, Johan Tetzel.
4. Through the next decade, he gained fame as his writings spread through Europe and he further developed his position on Justification.
5. Over time, he and the Catholic church became more and more distant until he was excommunicated by pope Leo X on January 3, 1521.
6. Published a German translation of the New Testament in 1522 and the Old Testament in 1534.

C. Other names

1. Philipp Melanchthon, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Paul Tillich, Johann Sebastian Bach

### II. Some Issues

A. Incomplete "Reformation"

1. Basically what Luther did was to create a different version of the Catholic church minus doctrines he disagreed with (indulgences, popes, etc.)
2. Side Note - Baptists are not Protestants. We never left the Catholic church because we were never part of it.
3. The Lutheran and Reformation motto of "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone" is good, if they only stood by it.

B. Infant Baptism

1. Although we do not claim to understand fully how this happens, we believe that when an infant is baptized God creates faith in the heart of that infant. We believe this because the Bible says that infants can believe (Matt. 18:6) and that new birth (regeneration) happens in Baptism (John 3:5-7; Titus 3:5-6). The infant's faith cannot yet, of course, be verbally expressed or articulated by the child, yet it is real and present all the same (see e.g., Acts 2:38-39; Luke 1:15; 2 Tim. 3:15). The faith of the infant, like the faith of adults, also needs to be fed and nurtured by God's Word (Matt. 28:18-20), or it will die. - <http://www.lcms.org/faqs/doctrine>

1. Bible answer - \*crickets\*. NO BABY IS EVER BAPTIZED IN THE BIBLE!

C. Consubstantiation

1. There are three prevalent views on the Lord's Supper
  - a) Transubstantiation - the bread and wine *literally become* the flesh and blood of Christ (Catholics)

- b) Consubstantiation - the bread and wine *contain the essence* of the flesh and blood of Christ (Lutherans, Protestants, Methodists, and others.)
- c) Symbolism - the bread and wine *symbolize* the flesh and blood of Christ (Baptists)

#### D. End Times

- 1. Lutherans hold to a post-millennial view on end times
- 2. Scripture teaches that all Christians will endure varying degrees of "tribulation" until the last day, that Christ will return only once (visibly) to "catch up" ("rapture") all believers, living and dead, into heaven, and that all believers will reign forever with him in heaven. Lutherans understand the "1,000 years" of Rev. 20:11-15 to be a figurative reference to Christ's reign here and now in the hearts and lives of believers, which will culminate in our reigning with Christ forever in heaven following his return on the last day. - <http://www.lcms.org/faqs/doctrine>
- 3. I Thessalonians 4:13-18, I Corinthians 15:50-54, and the entire Book of Revelation.

#### E. Use of Liturgy

- 1. "a fixed set of ceremonies, words, etc., that are used during public worship in a religion" - Merriam-Webster
- 2. Lutherans will use a set of calendar with specific scriptures to be read each Sunday in relation to festivals or holidays.
- 3. Consists of a First Reading, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel.
- 4. This leads to formalized worship and places undue emphasis on days or seasons.