



5 Starter Facts About Lutheran Christianity

1. Lutheranism is the oldest Protestant denomination, officially splitting from the Catholic Church in 1521. There are ~80 million Lutherans worldwide and ~8.3 million in the United States.
2. Martin Luther was a friar in the Holy Roman Empire who condemned the sale of indulgences in his parish. This anger drove him to write 95 Theses, a collection of problems he saw in the Church. His defense of these and their spread sparked the Protestant Reformation.
3. Lutherans advocate for faith-based scripture found in the Bible alone. They believe repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as the savior by sacrificing for the world's sins leads to salvation, while unbelief and sin leads to eternal damnation.
4. The Lutheran Church teaches that the world was created everything free of sin but Adam and Eve corrupted humanity through hubris and not resisting the devil's temptation. According to Lutheran teaching, all humans are born with the burden of original sin, a consequence of Adam and Eve's inability to resist temptation and eating of the apple from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
5. The Lutheran teaching of the sacraments is the primary division with other Christian traditions. For example, adherents believe the bread and wine communion is the true blood and body of Christ, rather than Christ's spiritual presence. Lutherans also believe baptism is necessary for salvation.

Learn more at:

<http://www.patheos.com/library/lutheran>

<https://www.elca.org/>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.