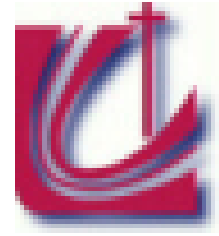


Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church Ardrossan, AB



WHO ARE WE

I. We are a Christian church.

This means we recognize as fellow Christians all who believe and trust in Jesus as their Savior and in God as the source of life.

II. We are a Lutheran Church. This means:

A. We are connected historically to churches that adopted Luther's teachings.

*B. We accept the doctrinal position or understanding of the Bible from a Lutheran perspective. Lutherans believe the gospel is summarized in these words – we are saved by:
Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Word Alone*

III. We are a confessional Church. This means:

A. We hold to the ancient creeds of the Christian Church:

1. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

2. The Nicene Creed

3. The Athanasian Creed

B. Our doctrinal position is found in the Augsburg confession and is written down in the book of Concord.

IV. We are a Sacramental Church.

This means that we believe Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be sacraments through which we receive God's blessing. (They are "means of grace" not just memorials or symbols)

V. We are and ELCIC Church

We are members of a church body called the ELCIC (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada)

A. We belong to the national church (5 synods) with offices in Winnipeg.

(The present Bishop is Telmor Sartison)

B. We together with 148 other congregations belong to the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, with offices in Edmonton (Bishop Steven Kristenson)

WHAT DO LUTHERANS BELIEVE?

I. GOD

A. *We believe in one God in three persons (The Trinity):*

1. We believe in God the Father who created the world.
2. We believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to redeem us.
3. We believe in God, the Holy Spirit who helps us grow (sanctifies) as God's children. He shows us our sin, assures us that we are children of God; we are also given gifts of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit through His power.

II. MAN

A. *God created both men and women to be perfect and to have free will. When the first couple chose to disobey and rebel against God, sin and death came into the world. Their rebellion gave Satan rulership of the world.*

"...the whole world is in the power of the evil one." I John 5:19b

B. *We recognize the every person born has a sinful nature and that we are unable to save ourselves.*

"For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23

C. *We recognize that no one is perfect before God. We break His commandments – especially the commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3 These are sins of commission (doing).*

D. *We recognize that as well we fail to do right. Probably everyone fails at some time to keep the commandment "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Matthew 19:19b These are sins of omission.*