

## WHAT DOES “LUTHERAN” MEAN?

The Lutheran church derives its name from Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk whose posting of the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517, sparked the Reformation. The documents, which present what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess, were assembled and published in 1580 in The Book of Concord. For more than 400 years, these documents have served as a statement of the Christian faith as Lutherans confess it.

Luther and the other writers of these confessions maintain that we believe and teach nothing more and nothing less than what the Scriptures themselves teach and what Christians through the ages have always believed. We believe that sinners are justified (declared right) with the Creator God by grace alone, through faith alone, on the basis of Scripture alone.

**GRACE ALONE** – God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

**FAITH ALONE** – By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

**SCRIPTURE ALONE** – The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the solve rule and norm for Christian doctrine.