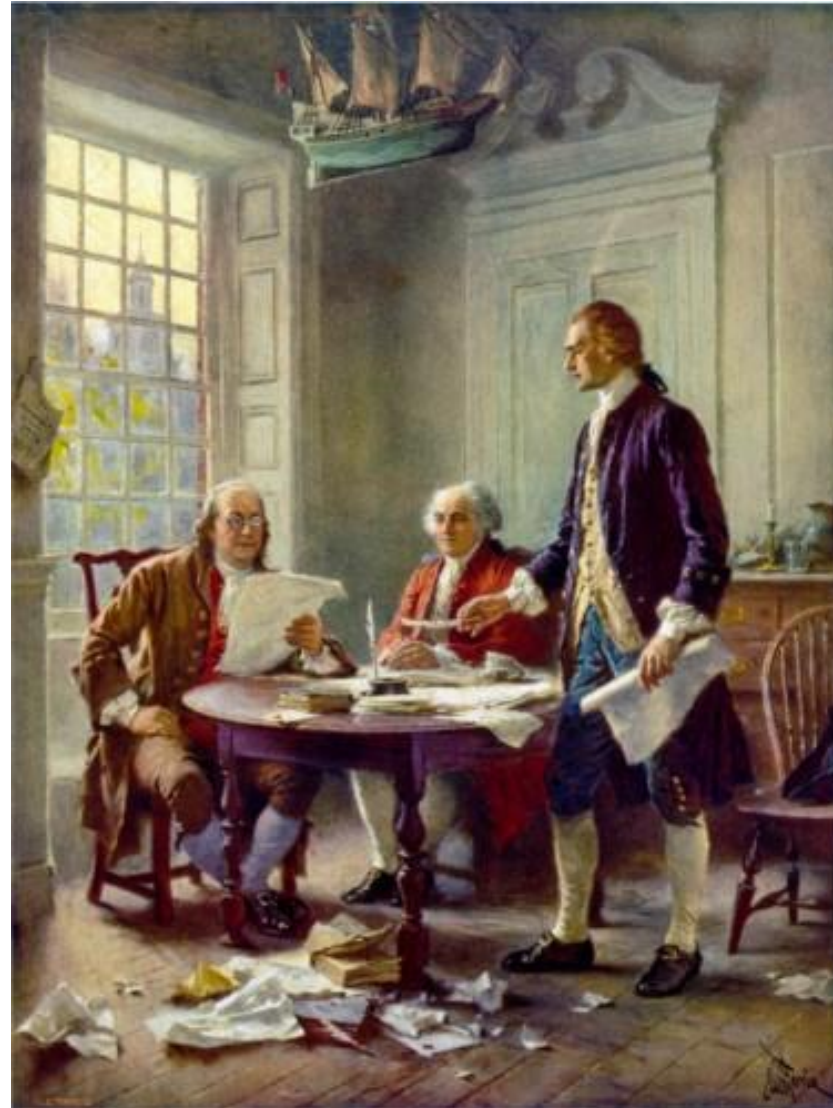




The ABC's of Lutheran Christians



What are they up to?



Biblical Truth in brief confessions



What truths do you see?

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure,
we will also reign with him.
If we disown him,
he will also disown us;
if we are faithless,
he will remain faithful,
for he cannot disown
himself.

2 Timothy 2:11 (NIV)

He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among
Gentiles,
believed in throughout
the world,
taken up in glory.

1 Tim 3:16 (NRSV)

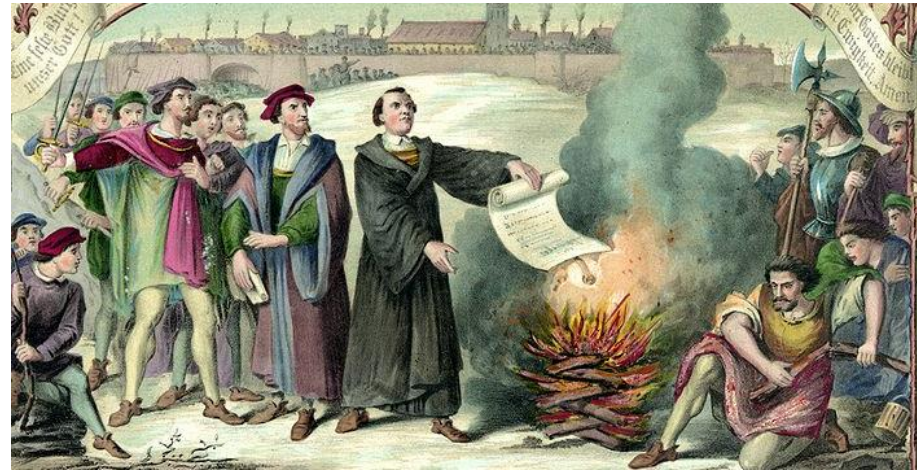
What truths do you see?

- I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What was the “declaration of independence” for Lutherans?



<-- Was this it?



Was it this? ->

What was the “declaration of independence” for Lutherans?

<-- Was *this* it?



Was it this? ->

What did they still need?



The Augsburg Confession



THE PROTESTANT PRINCES PRESENTING THEIR CONFESSION TO CHARLES.

Articles of Belief

- I [God](#)
- Lutherans hold to the teaching of the Triune God and reject all other interpretations of God's nature.

- II [Original Sin](#)

- Lutherans hold to the teaching that all are born in sin, enemies of God, unable to trust God, only be his enemy and a slave to sin. The only way to be saved is God's rebirth of faith worked by Holy Spirit -given in our baptism.

- III The Son of God
- Jesus, the Son of God, took on flesh. Fully God and Fully man he alone has won peace between God and mankind.

The BIG ONE!

- IV [Justification By Faith](#)
- We cannot be made right with God through our works. We entirely depend on Jesus Christ to be declared innocent and righteous before God.

- V The Office of Preaching
- God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel.

- VI Of The New Obedience
- Good deeds are natural fruit of faith and a response worked by God. They do not in anyway save.

- VII Of The Church

- There is one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.

- VIII What The Church?
- the Word and the Sacraments are always valid –despite hypocrisy- because they are instituted by Christ

- IX Of **Baptism**
- “is necessary, that grace is offered through it, and that one should also baptize children, who through such baptism are entrusted to God”

- X Of the [Lord's Supper](#)
- Christ body and blood is truly present with the bread and wine
- Reject all contrary teaching

- XI Of [Confession](#)
- Confession and Absolution should remain in use according to Scripture, but we can't enumerate every sin and shouldn't demand this.

- XII Of Repentance
- Repentance includes both terror over sin and trust in the gospel for forgiveness
- Reject all who teach must earn forgiveness by acts of penance

- XIII Of the Use of the Sacraments
- “they are signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us, through which God moves hearts to believe.”
- Only two: Baptism and Lord’s Supper

- XIV Of Ecclesiastical Order
- “no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call”

- XV Of Ecclesiastical Usages
- church holidays and festivals are useful, but observance and ritual is not necessary for salvation.

- XVI Of Civil Affairs
- Secular governments and authorities are instituted by God, given authority to punish wrong. It is acceptable for a Christian to serve in this role. We only can rightly disobey if they go against God's Word.
- Reject Anabaptists, who teach otherwise

- XVII Of Christ's Return
- Christ will return to judge all, all will be raised, godly will go to eternal life, wicked to everlasting hell.
- Reject notion of any earthly kingdom of God

- XVIII Of [Free Will](#)
- We have free will in civic matters (civil righteousness) but not in spiritual matters. Spiritually can only chose evil and rejection of God.
- Only the Holy Spirit can bring someone to faith, he does this through the Word of God.

- XIX Of the Cause of Sin
- God does not sin or cause it — sin is instead the work of the "ungodly and the devil"

- XX Of Good Works
- Justification by faith doesn't condemn God works. Good works don't earn salvation, but are natural result of faith worked by God.
- Do not consider good the “childish, unnecessary works—such as rosaries, the cult of the saints, joining religious orders, pilgrimages, appointed fasts” but only what is worked by faith as guided by Scripture

- XXI Of the Worship of the Saints
- There is only one mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ. The former saints can be remembered for encouragement, but not put in place of God.

Abuses corrected

- XXII Of Both Kinds In The Sacrament (Eucharist) (we give the wine!)
- XXIII Of the Marriage of Priests (to forbid marriage is evil and will produce immorality)
- XXIV Of the Mass (is not a 'work' or resacrifice. We retain Lord's Supper in proper use as means of grace)
- XXV Of Confession (Confession is needed, not need to numerate every sins, ALL sins are forgiven)
- XXVI Of the Distinction of Meats (fasting and other traditions should not be work-righteousness, but done properly)
- XXVII Of Monastic Vows (isolation etc. does not make one more pure!)
- XXVIII Of Ecclesiastical Power (priest are not secular rulers!)

The Conclusion of the Ab.C.

This is nearly a complete summary of what is preached and taught in our churches for proper Christian instruction and the comfort of consciences, as well as for the improvement of believers.



The Conclusion of the Ab.C.

For we certainly wish neither to expose our own souls and consciences to grave danger before God by misusing the divine name or Word nor to pass on or bequeath to our children and descendants any other teaching than that which accords with the pure Word of God and Christian truth.



The Conclusion of the Ab.C.

That is why those who undertake to isolate, reject, and avoid our people as heretics, without having themselves any solid basis in divine command or Scripture, act in a very unfriendly and hasty manner, contrary to all Christian unity and love.

Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord : The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000). 58.



The Conclusion of the Ab.C.

Since, then, this teaching is clearly grounded in Holy Scripture and is, moreover, neither against nor contrary to the universal Christian church—or even the Roman church—so far as can be observed in the writings of the Fathers, we think that our opponents cannot disagree with us in the articles set forth above.



The Final Conclusion to the Ab.C.

In keeping with the summons, we have desired to present the above articles as a **declaration of our confession** and the teaching of our people. Anyone who should find it defective shall willingly be furnished with an additional account based on divine Holy Scripture.

- *Your Imperial Majesty's most*

humble, obedient [servants]

- *JOHN, duke of Saxony, elector*
- *GEORGE, margrave of Brandenburg [-Ansbach]*
- *ERNEST, duke of Lüneburg*
- *PHILIP, landgrave of Hesse*
- *JOHN FREDERICK, duke of Saxony*
- *FRANCIS, duke of Lüneburg*
- *WOLFGANG, prince of Anhalt*
- *The Mayor and Council of*
- *The Mayor and Council of*



Why do they sign... and for whom?



Does this event still have an impact on people today?

Does anybody still hold to this document today?

Why do they sign? ... for whom?



What impact does the Ab.C. have to this day?

Who still holds to this document as true?

An unchanging confession of THE faith

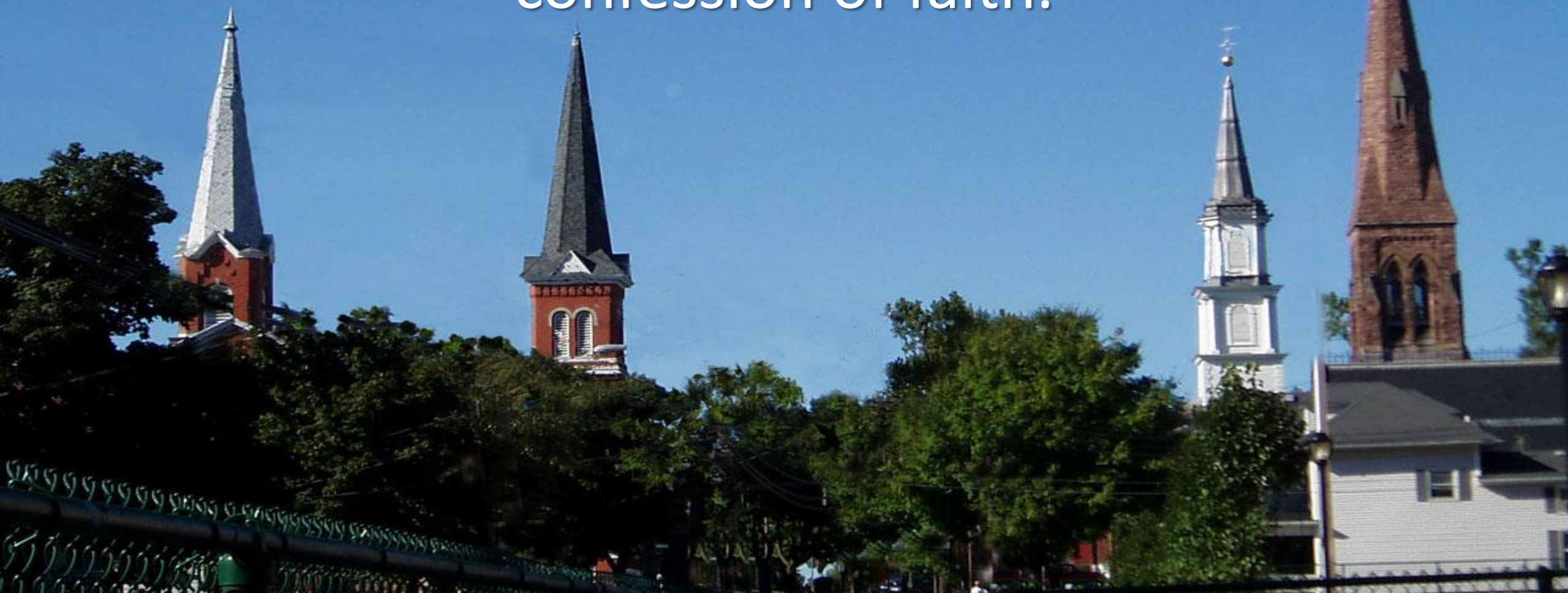
Explain to your table partner *why* the Lutheran church needs to continue to say, “I believe all the Augsburg Confession is a faithful exposition of God’s Word.”



Breakdown the main reasons why the Augsburg Confession was created. List at least three important reasons:



Imagine the Lutheran Church
without the Ab.C or any other
confession of faith.



What of today's Pastors and Teachers?

- He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are *ruining whole households* by teaching things they ought not to teach -Tit 1:9-11.

What of today's Lutherans?

- You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. -Tit 2:1.
- Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Ti 4:16.

Come up with at least four things not dealt with by the Reformers (wasn't necessary in their day) which modern Lutherans would need to state as part of what they confess and they reject:



For further discussion: Why the **Book of Concord**?

Phil M. gets a
big head...

