

American Lutheran Denominations: A Comparison Sheet

Generalized Observations	American Association of Lutheran Churches	Association of Free Lutheran Congregations	Church of the Lutheran Brethren	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ	The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod	North American Lutheran Church	Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Demographics	67 Churches 16,000 members	270 Churches 43,000 members	123 Churches 23,000 congregants	9,500 Churches 3.7 million members	142 Churches 20,000 members	847 Churches 300,000 members	6,105 Churches 2.1 million members	395 Churches 140,000 members	1,278 Churches 380,000 members
The Bible	Is Inerrant	Is Inerrant	Is Inerrant	Is not Completely Inerrant	Is Inerrant	Leans toward Inerrancy	Is Inerrant	Is not Completely Inerrant	Is Inerrant
Book of Concord Subscription	Subscribe to the Confessions 'because' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Small Catechism and Augsburg Confession only	Subscribe to the Small Catechism and Augsburg Confession only	Subscribe to the Confessions 'insofar as' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Confessions 'because' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Confessions 'insofar as' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Confessions 'because' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Confessions 'insofar as' they agree with Bible	Subscribe to the Confessions 'because' they agree with Bible
Communion	Leans toward Closed	Open	Open	Divided between: Open and Radically Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
End Times	Amillennialism	Divided between: Premillennialism, Amillennialism	Leans toward Premillennialism	Amillennialism	Amillennialism	Amillennialism	Amillennialism	Amillennialism	Amillennialism
Ethics of Life	Pro-life	Pro-life	Pro-life	Pro-choice	Pro-life	Pro-life	Pro-life	Pro-life	Pro-life
Ethics of Marriage	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual and Homosexual Marriages	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only	Recognizes Heterosexual Marriage only
Ordination	Men	Men	Men	Men; Women; Homosexuals; Transgenders	Men	Men; Women; Celibate Homosexuals	Men	Men; Women; Celibate Homosexuals	Men
Origin of Life	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)	Theistic Evolution	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)	Divided between: Creationism and Theistic Evolution	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)	Leans toward Theistic Evolution	Creationism (Young Earth; Literal 6 Day Creation)
Services	Semi-Liturgical	Non-liturgical; Low-church	Non-liturgical; Low-church	Liturgical	Liturgical	Semi-Liturgical	Liturgical	Liturgical	Liturgical