

Evangelical  
Covenant Church

# Evangelical Covenant Church

- Formed in the 1880's among Swedish Lutherans primarily in the Midwest
  - Boone, Iowa, as well as Chicago and Minneapolis
- 875 churches, around 180,000 members
  
- Deerbrook Covenant Church, Lee's Summit w/ thanks to Pastor Roger Gilbert
- 9 others in greater Kansas City area

# Material Principle

## LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

## ECC

- Personal faith in Christ that changes life now, and changes our eternal destiny
  - Expressed in a personal faith

# Formal Principle

## LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

## ECC

- Scripture (OT and NT)
  - Where is it written?
  - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - But not necessarily inerrant

# God

LCMS

ECC

- Biblical Trinity

- Biblical Trinity

# The Person of Jesus

## LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

## ECC

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

# The Work of Jesus

## LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

## ECC

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Savior

# Doctrine of Man

## LCMS

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

## ECC

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Partial Depravity
  - Some free will in regards to that personal decision



# Salvation/Justification

## LCMS

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone

## ECC

- Decision
- Spirit enters us, gives us new birth – This is seen as the work of God, not our work.

# Sacraments

## LCMS

- A means of grace
- Commanded by Christ
- With a visible element
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution

## ECC

- Spirit is involved in a mysterious way
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Immediate Grace, not means of grace

# Assurance

## LCMS

## ECC

- Points you to the means of grace:
    - Baptism
    - Lord's Supper
    - Absolution
  - Not based on you or your works, but on God and what He has done for you.
- Trust in one's conversion experience
  - Have you put your trust in Christ?

# Church and Ministry

## LCMS

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Marks of the Church – Preaching and the sacraments
- One divinely instituted office – the Preaching Office or the Office of the Keys
- Auxiliary offices are rooted in the Office

## ECC

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Priesthood of All Believers
- Congregational Polity – local authority, with pastors ordained nationally and hired locally (business-like model)
- Everyone a minister
- Reformed, catholic, Evangelical, and Apostolic

# Last Things

## LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

## ECC

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Most are premillennial, some amillennial

# Current Cultural Topics

## LCMS

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

## ECC

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
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# Miscellaneous

## ECC

- Nationally, lots of focus on global mission and youth camps
- Like to use the phrase “loving believers”
- Six key teachings:
  - Bible is central
  - Necessity of New Birth
  - Conscious dependence on Spirit (some even speak in tongues, but only at home)
  - Whole mission of the church (social justice and evangelism)
  - Church is a fellowship of believers
  - Freedom in Christ (not to divide, but freedom to interpret)

# Miscellaneous

## ECC

- Major focus on relationships:
  - A human covenant between people and churches
  - Focus on Psalm 119:63 “I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.”
  - Freedom to interpret Scriptures differently
  - May come across as “wishy washy” but seen as being loving and accepting within the bounds of Scripture