

The East

Eastern Orthodox Church

- 270 million members
- Formed in year of Jesus' death (their teaching of apostolic succession)
- The West (Rome) split off in 1054.
- Annunciation Greek Orthodox Christian Church, with thanks to Father Dino Sinos
- 8 others throughout the Kansas City area

Material Principle

LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

Eastern Orthodox

- Theopoiesis
 - God became man that man may become like God
 - Sanctification is a sharing of divine attributes

Formal Principle

LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

Eastern Orthodox

- Scripture (OT, **Apocrypha**, and NT)
- **Sacred Tradition**
 - **Infallible (Scripture, too)**
 - **Ecumenical Councils – all bishops present. Otherwise, fallible.**

Formal Principle cont.

- “God is the only source of infallibility, and since God the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, it only makes sense that God the Holy Spirit may infallibly interpret it. Jesus Christ promised to the Church's first Bishops, the Apostles, that the Holy Spirit would guide them (i.e. the Bishops) into all truth (John 16:13); therefore, the Orthodox Church continues to interpret the Holy Bible that it compiled and canonized according to past 2,000 years of oral, liturgical, ecumenical, and experiential God-inspired interpretation; and also in regards to the patristic teachings of the Holy [Church Fathers](#).”

God

LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

Eastern Orthodox

- Biblical Trinity
 - Single-precession (split with the West)
 - Veneration of the saints

The Person of Jesus

LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

Eastern Orthodox

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

The Work of Jesus

LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

Eastern Orthodox

- Voluntary death to destroy death
- Redemption
- Reconciliation
 - Removes the curse
 - Restores the image of God
 - Man becomes like God by sharing in His attributes
- Savior

Doctrine of Man

LCMS

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

Eastern Orthodox

- Ancestral Sin
- Man created good
- Free will remains to choose God or sin
- Man has an inclination toward sin
- Human trinity of body, soul, and spirit

Salvation/Justification

LCMS

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

Eastern Orthodox

- Eternal life is eternal communion w/God
- Theopoiesis or Theosis
- Justified through faith and love (works)
 - Synergism

Sacraments

LCMS

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

Eastern Orthodox

- Generally considers everything in and of the church to be a mystery or a sacrament
 - Baptism
 - Chrismation
 - Lord's Supper
 - Confession/Reconciliation
 - Ordination
 - Matrimony
 - Holy Unction
- Sacramentals

Assurance

LCMS

- 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.

Eastern Orthodox

- We are never assured of our standing with God.
- An Orthodox Christian answers the question, "are you saved?" by saying, "I was saved, I am being saved and (God willing) I will be saved"
- Doing our best to practice our faith in our lives, live in communion with God, and accept His love for us, could be considered an assurance.

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

Eastern Orthodox

- Kingdom of Christ is the
visible church founded by
Christ
- A visible organization of
bishops: Bishops, Deacons,
Presbyters.
- Apostolic Succession
- All other Christians are
outside of the Church,
though the Spirit may still
work in other
denominations

Last Things

LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

Eastern Orthodox

- Life after Death
- Theopoiesis (theosis) continues after death - becomes like God
 - Prayers for the dead can assist them here.
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

Current Cultural Topics?

LCMS

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

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Miscellaneous

Eastern Orthodox

- Rome split over:
 - Filioque Controversy (potentially resolved?)
 - Leavened or unleavened bread (East not concerned by the type; Christ is the bread of life, He is risen!)
 - The Pope or Ecumenical Patriarch as the head of the church (the terms themselves are interchangeable)