

Church of the Nazarene

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- Originated in 1908, coming off of the Church of England, specifically through Phineas Bresee
 - More similar to Methodist churches today
- Over 2 million members across 160 world areas (countries/territories)

- New Beginnings Church, Lee's Summit w/ thanks to Pastor Jake Edwards
- 33 others in greater Kansas City area

Material Principle

LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

Nazarene

- Sanctification
 - Perfection can be achieved
 - This is a point of tension
 - Some say possible in theory
 - For others, it becomes an expectation (legalism)
 - Trinity makes it possible to live free from sin.
 - Ongoing discussion on the best way to phrase this

Formal Principle

LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

Nazarene

- Scripture (OT and NT)
 - When it comes to God's will in regards to salvation, the Bible is inerrant
 - In all other matters, the Bible is not necessarily inerrant.

God

LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

Nazarene

- Biblical Trinity

The Person of Jesus

LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

Nazarene

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

The Work of Jesus

LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

Nazarene

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Doctrine of Man

LCMS

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

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- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- “Total” Depravity
 - They use the phrase, but there is still an element of personal decision in their theology
 - Ties to prevenient grace
 - Also teach an age of accountability

Salvation/Justification

LCMS

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

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- We:
 - Are fallen
 - Repent and believe in the heart
 - See God's work as effective for our atonement
 - Confess the resurrection
 - Live in it
- Doctrinally, they don't teach good works as necessary for salvation
- Practically, it looks like they teach good works as necessary for salvation because of their teachings on sanctification and perfection

Sacraments

LCMS

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

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- Signs/Symbols
 - Possibly changing!
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper

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.

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- Focus on the story of Scripture
- Our assurance is in the movement of God
- Start with prevenient grace
- Move to baptism, and discuss how it's a matter of what God has done for us.
- Where Pastor Edwards grew up, would have been a focus on the sinner's prayer.

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

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- Church as the Body of Christ
- Priesthood of All Believers
- Mix of Congregational and Episcopalian polities
 - Authority is local
 - Boards of governance
- Global conference once every four years
 - 6 General Superintendents
 - Regions (Regional Coordinators)
 - Districts (District Superintendents)
 - This is the KC District, with 90 churches.

Last Things

LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

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- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Historically premillennial, but now more are 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

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- Pastor Edwards noted several times the “young” nature of the denomination. This leads to them still learning and growing on how they do ministry. Some examples:
 - Shifting towards the sacraments as a means of grace.
 - Starting to become more liturgical. New Beginnings celebrated Ash Wednesday for the first time this year.
 - Shifting towards amillennial teaching.