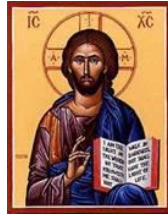


# Church



... the bride of Christ  
... created by God for His people

## A clear message from Scripture.

- God created the Church for His people to gather.
- God calls His people to sacred, holy space to worship Him in reverence.
- God pities people who do not have a shepherd and in a community of believers.
- Sound doctrinal teachings and continuing in the teachings of Christ are repeatedly stressed as critical for God's people.

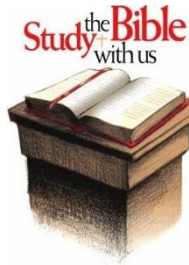
## Simple Questions?

- Does the Bible contain any errors or contradictions?
- Can women be pastors?
- Should babies be baptized?
- Did God die on the cross?
- Can anyone be saved apart from a relationship with Jesus?

You will be amazed at the different responses given by other pastors and churches. All the different, contradictory opinions cannot all be correct. What are you to believe? How much error are you willing to accept in what a church teaches? God's Word is clear. There is an unchanging truth in His Church throughout the ages, in every time & place.

## Does it matter?

ABSOLUTELY! What parts of the Bible does Jesus say to ignore or minimize? Which parts does He tell us is okay to change based on culture? Which parts are absolute truth and which parts are just good advice? It is extremely popular in Christianity today to twist, change God's Word to meet how we may feel or fit our lifestyles. The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod endeavors to be faithful to the Word.



**Our concern** is not in arguing over that claim of faithfulness and purity in teaching of God's Word, but in proclaiming Law and Gospel faithfully. The Law exposes our need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It shows that we need forgiveness. The Gospel is not for people who think that they are "basically good." The Gospel is for the broken-hearted sinners who need life which Jesus gives through His gifts.

## What is the most dangerous thing in the world?

The answer... false doctrine. False doctrine would never show up unless you ask Jesus. Just about every time Jesus (and the entire New Testament) uses the word "beware" He is using it to warn of false teaching and false doctrine (Matthew 7:15, 16:6-12). Jesus repeatedly tells us to BEWARE of false teachings. The Apostles too continue to stress the priority of "sound doctrine" (2 Peter 3:17; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Ephesians 4:14).



A quote from C.F. Walther, our first synodical president.

"God requires, not only that we love His Word, but also that we tremble at it, that is, that we sincerely dread to deviate from a single letter of the divine Word, that we do

not dare to add anything to it or take anything from it. We are to be ready to shed our blood rather than yield a letter of God's Word."

Martin Luther, Christians before him and to this day claim...

**We desire to believe, teach, confess as the Church always has...**

**...we can not do otherwise ...if we are in error show it to us in Scripture ...otherwise we will not be moved.**

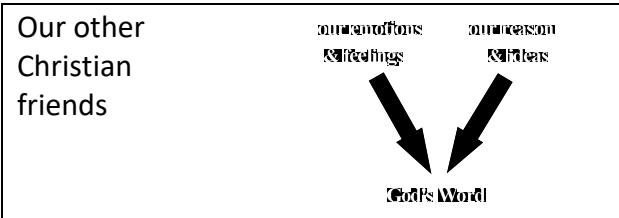
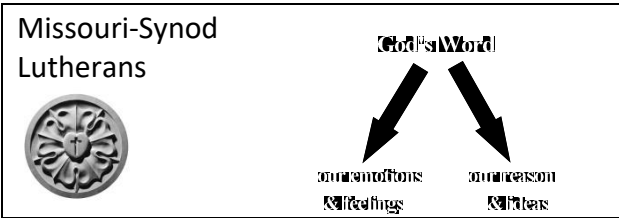


**Do you have to go to Church to be a Christian, to be saved?** No, of course not. Salvation is never about what we do. **But, if you are a Christian, you should want to go to Church.** In response to God's love, cherishing His Word, desiring to know more of Him & receive His gifts. Repeatedly in Scripture, He calls you to His house of prayer, to His bride, the Church.

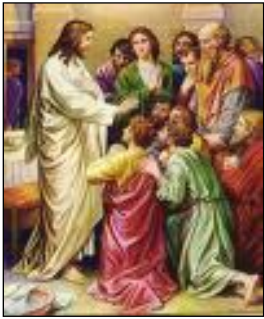
**Many churches** today emphasize that they are friendly. Many emphasize how many programs for fun, fellowship. How casual, conveniences they may offer. **But how many promote TRUTH?** Friendliness, convenience, and social interaction are all nice things, but they are not what will help you stand before the Almighty God. If you select a church based on human qualities of the pastor or people you are making a selection which is bound to change as easily as the pastor or people themselves change — like shifting sands in the prevailing winds. That is why we want to direct your attention to the Word of God as it is preached and taught and not on personalities and creature comforts. As 1 Peter 1:24-25 states: *"For all men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever"*. And this is the Word that was preached to you the worship that is done with the "angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven."

Membership? Many people look for churches that offer worship they feel they 'connect to', programs for their children, offers a variety of stuff for ..... All this is important. But what a church *actually* teaches should be foremost. There is, however, another way of looking at church membership, a way which has staying power. It is not ultimately concerned whether the pastor is friendly or inspirational, but whether he is telling the truth about God. It isn't concerned whether the members are outgoing or whether the church has enough social activities, but whether the church stands fast upon the Word of God.





**Very Simply** What sets us apart from all other Christians is this. The Word of God informs our reason and emotions. All other Christians allow their reason and emotions to inform the Word. This is seen in what the church teaches and rules of men or a pope placed equal or above Scripture. Man's reason dismissing God's clear, unchanging instruction (like on the Sacraments) or man's feelings over God's Word (like women pastors, redefining what sin is as in homosexual activity, abortion murder).



**DOCTRINE...It matters to us because it matters to God**

In John 8:31-32, Jesus said to those who believed Him, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." We are concerned about abiding in Christ's Word of truth as His disciples.



**Why are we Christians? Why are we Lutherans?**

Because Jesus is at the center and it's all about Him. We are Christians by grace alone, a simple yet profound work of the new creation in water and the Word. We know Jesus loves us because His Word gives life to water poured on us in Baptism. Because of Jesus, we face no punishment for sins, nor do we face eternal death. Saved by His sacrifice alone at the cross. We are Lutheran the same reason we are Christians. By grace. The teaching of the Lutheran Church place Jesus at the center because the teaching of Scripture places Jesus at the center. No other confession (church) demonstrates such a fidelity to the truth's of God's Word. No other confession (church) so glorifies Christ by placing Him at the center of all it teaches and confesses. Being a Lutheran is all about Jesus.

**Now** such a statement may strike some as boastful. But it is not; rather a humble stance, an expression of the Spirit-led confidence that moves us to speak of the faith before the world. To be a Lutheran is to honor God's Word, to confess the fullness of the Gospel. It is our commitment to pure teachings and confession of faith as we go forth to speak to others in love.

**Risen Savior Lutheran Church**




14700 Leavenworth Rd., Basehor, KS 66007  
(913) 724-2900

[www.risensaviorlcms.org](http://www.risensaviorlcms.org)

**Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 am**

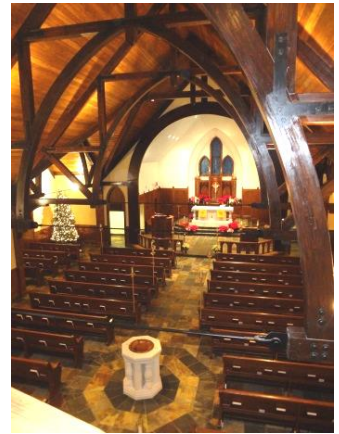
Rev. Robert Weinkauff, pastor  
pastor@risensaviorlcms.org

Church



Risen Savior  
Lutheran Church

**Why?**



**Aren't all churches pretty much the same, just find one that is comfortable and friendly?**



**Does it make a difference what a church teaches?**