

Augsburg Confession

Fall 2025

Session 10 – Article IX - Baptism

Article X - Communion

Review

What do Lutherans believe, teach, and confess concerning Baptism?

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. God does the saving through this Sacrament of water and the Word. Believing is not an act of man; rather, faith is a gift of God (Third Article of the Apostles' Creed).

Titus 3:4-7 - Baptism is God coming to man and washing away his sins. It is God richly pouring Himself out on us.

Acts 2:38-39 - Baptism is not man's commitment or dedication to God (this is a denial of the very gift of God in Baptism). Baptism is God giving the forgiveness of sin to man. It is God's promise to man, not man's promise or dedication to God.

Question 1 – *Why is Ephesians 2:3 important in the discussion of Baptism?*

Look at John 3:5-6 and Luke 18:15-17 –

Review the following Scenario

John and Jenny were high school sweethearts. They fell in love and got married. John went to St. Martin's Lutheran Church, and Jenny went to First Baptist Church. They decided they would each keep their own church membership and take turns worshiping at each other's churches. John and Jenny are now expecting their first child. About two months before their baby is due, John tells Jenny they should start thinking about the Baptism of the baby. Jenny becomes indignant and says the child will not be baptized until she is twelve years old and can answer for herself. John deeply believes their baby is in need of Baptism, but Jenny believes they can have a dedication of the child to God when the baby is born and then see her baptized later.

Question 2 - *Why do Lutherans believe in infant Baptism (Acts 2:38-39; Psalm 51:5)?*

Question 3 - *What is the spiritual distinction between what John believes and what Jenny believes?*

Question 4 - *Does it really matter if the baby is baptized or dedicated as long as everyone involved believes in Jesus?*

Question 5 - *Is John's understanding of Baptism based on Law or Gospel? What is the significance of this question?*

Article X – Holy Communion

Getting Started

You were in a Christian fraternity in college. You've been invited back to your alma mater for a twenty-fifth-anniversary fraternity reunion. One of the brothers is now a minister in the Baptist Church. In the invitation, there is a schedule of events. You notice that the Baptist minister is inviting all of you to a communion service amongst the brothers, with the Baptist minister officiating. How do you now begin to process this as a Lutheran?

Read Article X “The Lord’s Supper (page 14)

Question 6 – *What is actually being received in the Lord’s Supper?*

Luke 22:19-20 -

I Corinthians 10:16 -

1 Corinthians 11:25 –

- ❖ The Lord's Supper is more than mere bread and wine. Christ Himself is present in the Lord's Supper to address real-life situations.

Question 7 – *How does the Lord’s supper make a difference to someone who is;*

- Feeling guilt over committing a sin?
- Wrestling with sexual identity?
- Having serious doubts about God and the Bible?
- Experiencing a time of great sickness or nearness to death?
1 Peter 1:18-19. We are ransomed (bought back) from our enemies of sin, death, and devil with "His holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death." Especially at the time of death, Satan desires the sinner to doubt God and His promise of salvation. As the sinner receives the flesh and blood-the very presence of God-the dying sinner may cling ever so tightly to the God of salvation with the sure promise of eternal life.

Question 8 - *Are the following statements Lutheran, Roman Catholic or Reformed?*

- The Lord's Supper is sacrifice, a meritorious work performed by the clergy. This is an act whereby the clergy "sacrifice" Christ again and again on behalf of the living and the dead.

- The Lord's Supper is sacrament, whereby all the promises and benefits come solely from God, that is, He gives forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
- The Lord's Supper is symbol, whereby the bread and wine represent the body and blood of Christ, and one communes with Christ spiritually.

Question 9 - *How can the two non-Lutheran statements above actually be damaging to one's faith? Why is it important to understand the Sacraments rightly?*

- ❖ In 1530, the Lutherans were fighting two fronts concerning the Lord's Supper: Rome and the "Sacramentarians." Ulrich Zwingli was the leader of the Sacramentarians in Luther's day; they believed the bread and wine represented the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper.
- ❖ Rome accused the "Protestants" as being all the same. Article X makes it clear that Lutherans are neither Roman Catholic nor Reformed Protestants. Lutherans are Lutherans. Lutherans do not believe the bread and wine changes into the body and blood of Christ, nor that the bread and wine simply represent the body and blood of Christ.

SCENARIO

Frank and Margaret were married for sixty-two years. They both worked hard and made a good living for themselves and their children. Frank and Margaret died and left a sizeable estate. Included in the estate were a suburban home, a lake home, a number of heirlooms, sentimental items, and a good amount of cash. It came time to read Frank and Margaret's last will and testament. After it was read, the children had some major questions and demanded that some things be changed. One child wanted this item rather than that item. One thought she deserved more of the cash than what the parents had stated. In the end, their attorney told them that this was their parents' last will and testament and what was written could not be changed. The children did not have the right to change it.

The words of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1 Corinthians concerning the Lord's Supper are Jesus' last will and testament. These words are the holy words of Christ, even as the entire Bible is God's Holy Word. God's Word is not to be changed or altered. It is God's Word.

Question 10 - *The Words of Institution are the last will and testament of God Incarnate Son. ("Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.") How do we respond to the following statements?*

- "I don't see how the bread and wine can actually be the Lord's body and blood. I think the bread and wine just symbolize the body and blood of Jesus."

- “I think all churches are the same. I think any Christian should be able to commune at any Christian altar.”
- “I don't like the taste of wine, so I think a person should receive just the bread in Holy Communion if they want.”
- “People interpret the Bible differently. Who are we to judge another denomination's belief about the Lord's Supper?”

References

Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today, A Study Based on Scripture and the Augsburg Confession, Rev. Dr. James A Baneck, North Dakota District President. 2015. CPH.

The Augsburg Confession, <https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Augsburg-Confession-Study-Guide.pdf>

Book of Concord Online, The Original Home of the Book of Concord, <https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/>