

Are Missouri Synod Lutherans Protestant? I know for many of you, the instinctive answer is to adamantly say, "Yes". But recently, in Bible Class and a few other conversations, some of you have heard me answer with some version of "No". So, I feel that this question is worthy of a more thorough answer.



It seems that a majority (or close) of people have acquired the understanding that the term "Protestant" applies to all Christians who "are not Roman Catholic". Likely this false understanding of the term has come about because it is often how a large part of the military and U.S. government has chosen to use and define what it means to be a "Protestant" Christian. (I'll show the flaw in defining people by who they "are not" in just a bit.)

However, the actual beginning of the term "Protestant", which literally means "one who protests against" something, even though it came about at the same time that the Lutheran Reformation was developing, was not about a protest against the Roman Catholic Church. It came from the protest of a small group of six princes of the Holy Roman Empire and fourteen rulers of Imperial Free Cities who were not okay with the religious politics of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. Their protest was against a declaration that was issued at a gathering in Speyer in 1526 that denied princes and civic rulers the right to choose which religious reforms would take effect in the states under their control. Charles V had ordered that Roman Catholicism must be followed in all states of the Holy Roman Empire. When they protested against their civil loss of control, they were labeled the "Protestants".

So, the term wasn't based in theology but in matters of politics. Granted, Martin Luther's condemnation by the Roman Catholic Church was the reason in Germany that there even were other religious options to consider. But the term "Lutheran" was only used at that time as an insult against those who agreed with Luther. Also, there were other religious groups, like the Anabaptists, who rejected infant baptism that existed before Luther's condemnation. And here's an important fact, those who followed Luther's Biblical teaching outside of the region of those protesting leaders (Scandinavia, etc.), did not publically protest or adopt the term "Protestant", simply calling themselves "Christians".

That's the origin of the term. Today's understanding that "Protestant" means "not (Roman) Catholic" is a term with virtually no meaning at all. Why? To try and define something by saying what it is not is filled with more problems than we have the space or time to list in this one article. Just think of every religious group that can technically be included in the definition, "not Catholic": Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Atheist, Agnostics and so many more groups that directly reject any remote consideration of Jesus as God and Savior.

All Scripture is
breathed out by
God and profitable
for teaching, for
reproof, for
correction, and
for training in
righteousness

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

On the other hand, today there are a very large number of so-called "Protestant" denominations that confess teachings just as much against Scripture as the Roman Catholic Church that Luther first wanted to reform. Consider for example: the Oneness Pentecostals who do not believe in the Triune God and the large majority of denominations (Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Non-denominational, etc.) who reject the fact that Jesus' body and blood are truly present in the Lord's Supper. Then there are those with the Anabaptist roots (Baptists and most Non-denominational churches) who reject Christ's institution of baptism for "all nations", which includes infants and young children. The greatest issue of concern though is that now the majority of those labeled as "Protestant" do not believe that the Bible is entirely (from Genesis to Revelation) God's inspired and inerrant Word. Even the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America (ELCA) does not believe that all of the books and teachings of the Bible are actually God's Word without error, in spite of 2 Timothy 3:16 that says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God...".

These are not just minor issues or matters of unimportant opinions are they? So, in some ways, we Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians agree more with the Roman Catholic Church (baptism, liturgical worship). Yet even there, numerous crucial differences still keep us from saying that we are united with them in our confession of faith. So we are neither "Protestant" nor "Roman Catholic" as those names are used today.

Consider this example: Technically, I am a "non-Fort Luptian" because I do not live in Fort Lupton nor have I ever lived there. At the same time people from Greeley are also "non-Fort Luptians". But, because I have spent over 20 years working in and serving Mt. Calvary and her members in the community of Fort Lupton, spending by my calculation at least 36% of my waking hours in this wonderful place, I have far more in common with Fort Luptians than I do with people from Greeley. Actually, I have no hesitation of saying that I have more in common with "Fort Luptians" than I do with "Broomfieldites" where I officially live. Hang on to your hats now: I could say then that I have more in common with "Fort Luptians" than I do with "non-Fort Luptians" even though I am a "non-Fort Luptian". That's utterly nonsensical.

The point is that defining something by what it is not is useless. So it is, that if I say that I am a "Protestant", I'm really saying nothing at all about who I am and what I believe, because I have no greater unity with those who claim to be Protestant than I do with those who claim to be Roman Catholic. And let me be clear, I am not in any way, intending to pick on or slam any other believers in Christ who are a part of any of these other denomination, because the same amount of disunity exists among the rest of them as well, even if they don't acknowledge it.

While the differences in our confession of faith are important because God gave us His perfect Word of truth, desiring that all people will "come to the knowledge of the truth" and "be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4), there is only one way to salvation; that is by "grace alone" through "faith alone" in "Jesus Christ alone" as revealed and taught to us in "Scripture alone". Believing and confessing this is what means I am saved. That truth is not officially confessed by the Roman Catholic Church nor by many (not all) under today's label of "Protestant" either.

This is why it makes more sense for me today to say with pride, "I am a Missouri Synod Lutheran Christian!" And when the inevitable question to that answer comes, "What is that?" guess what. You have just been asked to share your faith in Jesus and His Word as the only source of objective truth!

In His name and your service,

Pastor Keith Beed



SO PAUL WAS
WRITING IN
THE BIBLE
ABOUT THE
BIBLE?
(BIBLE?)



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PAUL WAS WRITING
A LETTER. HE'S
REFERING TO WHAT
WE CALL "THE OLD
TESTAMENT."



SO PAUL
DIDN'T KNOW
THE NEW
TESTAMENT?



HE DID.



HIS NAME IS
JESUS.



2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

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CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

It's easy for us to find things to gripe about, but God's blessings abound!

- ✦ For everyone who gave their time, talents and treasures to beautify the church for Easter and for an excellent Easter breakfast.
- ✦ For a Pastor who works to keep our focus on the church season and keeps us faithful to its celebration (ie: Lent and Easter).
- ✦ We are blessed to have dedicated Altar Guild members who care deeply about preparing the sacraments and altar area for each service
- ✦ A devoted choir director who found the perfect songs for the choir to sing and the choir who sang them.
- ✦ For working toilets and those who fix them!
- ✦ For beautiful mountains and much needed moisture.
- ✦ New spring growth, including dandelion blooms and singing robins.
- ✦ For God's gift of forgiveness and blessing His people with a desire to be forgiving toward others.

Count Your Blessings

We are in need of a few

volunteers to help on behalf of Mt Calvary at the local Ft. Lupton Food and Clothing Bank. Currently Richard Struck takes all the dry goods our congregation so generously donates over to the food bank. He then spends several hours a week helping out there. Please consider sharing your time to help a few hours a week. I'm sure he is willing to tell you what the job entails.



The Quilters are currently meeting Wednesdays at 9 am. Please consider joining , we have very few members!



If you shop at Safeway, consider requesting a **FREE** reloadable gift card from the church office. These cards are tied to a Mt Calvary account and we receive money when people reload their card. Read on to learn how to reload a card.

****Best Practice & Key Take Aways when Performing a Reload:**

1. Always request a balance inquiry before doing a reload.
 - * This will help avoid crossing the balance capacity of \$500.
2. When Reloading, you must swipe the card in the Pin pad. Pin pad will then prompt you for a \$ XX.XX amount. (You should never give the card to the checker for a reload)
 - * Max reload amount - \$500.
3. Checker will then tender the Reload transaction.
4. Confirm "Approved" on the receipt.



"THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT, SISTER IDA, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S BIBLICAL TO INCLUDE A COUPON 'GOOD FOR \$5.00 OFF YOUR NEXT TITHE' IN OUR NEWSLETTER"



It is the time of year again when here in the United States we must submit our taxes or pay the penalties for not doing so. So it is likely that at some point we will hear someone recite a shortened version of the famous quote:

“Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”
- Benjamin Franklin, 1789

While the “death and taxes” part has origins 70 years or more before Franklin wrote this, he is probably the most famous person to be credited with the early use of this statement. But is this statement correct? I hope your answer is an obvious and resounding “NO!” considering that we have just celebrated the resurrection of Christ at Easter!

As Christians we can rejoice that death is not certain and we are already living our eternal life now. In fact, you have already experienced the spiritual death of “the old Adam” at your baptism, when your eternal life began. Yes, we may experience our physical earthly death, but even that isn’t certain if Christ returns in our lifetime. We can pray “Come Lord Jesus” and hope He comes in our lifetime so we can at least avoid this death. For many the resurrection is one of the most challenging things to believe because it contradicts our experience and defies human reason. Martin Luther preached the following in 1535:

3880 A Resurrection Seems Unreasonable - That all human beings who have died and were buried, from the first to the last, are to be raised from death in one moment certainly sounds very strange, nay, seems to be impossible. Therefore reason cannot become reconciled to the teaching that this rising is to come about so quickly. For it sees that one is reduced to ashes by fire, another thrown into water, a third torn by wild animals, a fourth devoured by ravens on the gallows, etc. In short, who can tell, nay, imagine the manifold and strange ways in which human beings perish throughout the world? And yet in one moment all these are to stand alive before the Last Judgment, etc. In the same manner the others, who will then be alive and found at the table, in the house, on the field, in bed, drinking wine, working, etc. will be changed in a moment, so that they, too, together with the others, will stand there. Then both groups will in a moment be swept up to the clouds to meet the coming Lord. If you ask reason to explain this, you will never believe it. But then God will prove his divine power and majesty. Thus He did when He created heaven and earth out of nothing. He spoke only one word, and immediately they stood there. So it will be at the time of the resurrection.

As Luther said, it is hard or even impossible to think about every person in history suddenly being right there in an instant with all the still living believers, but what a sight that will be to behold. As we continue our celebration of Christ’s resurrection up to His Ascension, we can be certain of that day when He will come again and we will see the resurrection. As Christians, we can alter the old saying to: “Nothing is certain except The Resurrection and taxes” and maybe that will open an opportunity to witness as we deal with the other part and go ahead and submit our taxes.

-Scott Heusinkveld, Elder

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alter the old saying to:
“Nothing is certain
except The Resurrection
and taxes”**

Board of Spiritual Outreach

As we begin a new month, I would like to give a big thank you to the members of the Board of Spiritual Outreach: Mary Ann Merritt, Betty Koolhof and Richard Struck. They were a tremendous help in getting ready for the Ft. Lupton Easter Egg Hunt. We filled 10 Easter Baskets, loaded plastic eggs to be used in the hunt and worked at the Hunt itself!! Thank you!



Are you looking for some volunteer work? The Ft. Lupton Food Bank is always looking for volunteers! If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, contact Richard Struck. Volunteering would get Mt. Calvary's name out in the community as well as giving you some satisfaction of helping the community.



We are still collecting Longmont Dairy Milk caps for Butler Elementary School. There is a box to place them in on the table by the restrooms in the fellowship hall.

The Board is always looking for ideas to spread the Word, please let us know what you think. There is no such thing as a bad idea!!

By, Judy Kimball, Board Chair

MEAL PRAYERS



Hark to the chimes, come bow your head.

Thanks be to God for this good bread. Amen.

- Author Unknown

(tune: *Westminster Quarters*)



Many of you are familiar with the tune of the chimes for the "Big Ben" clock tower in London (minus the 2 long gongs at the end), called "Westminster Quarters". When I was a kid I remember the tune as a "doorbell" chime. As a matter of fact, I learned this prayer so young, that I thought these were the "words" to this famous tune. This tune was originally written in 1793 for a new clock in Great St. Mary's at Cambridge. Though the official composer is in doubt, it is traditionally believed that it is a set of variations on Handel's "I know that my Redeemer Liveth". There are several prayers associated with this melody, including one that is inscribed on a plaque in the Big Ben clock room.

All through this hour
Lord be my guide
That by Thy power
No footshall slide.

What a blessing to be able to associate God with a commonly used tune.

I pray you find the chance to witness to others; it can start by praying before meals together.

✝ A new meal prayer will be printed each month.
Feel free to submit your favorites!

– written by Tracy T.



Image: Kevin Carden via Lightstock

*For you created my inmost being,
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works, my soul
knows it very well.*

Psalm 149:13-14

1st month/4 weeks of Jesus' earthly existence

April 1 – Embryo Jesus has progressed through the morula phase and into the blastocyst stage of His life. Having traveled into Mary's womb, gently moved along by the cheerleading cilia of the fallopian tube, He nestles Himself into the uterine lining and implants. As a gracious guest, He has even brought along the beginnings of His own placenta as an interpreter and personal assistant.

April 8 – Without the angel Gabriel's greeting, Mary may not have even known of her pregnancy yet. But Jesus has oriented Himself with an irreversible top and bottom, front and back, left and right.

April 11 & 12 – Little Jesus has begun to produce His own blood cells, and the cardiac cells that will make up His heart have started to pulse.

April 17 & 18 – The gestating Lord has formed His primitive brain and spinal cord structures, and the heart of God in human form has found its rhythm that will beat until His crucifixion for us.

April 22 – His four-week-old miniature body has differentiated and positioned all the vital organs.

Additional info that came with photo:

At **4 weeks gestational age**, a baby in the first trimester starts to grow a brain, [spinal cord](#), and heart. Arm and leg buds begin to form. The baby is considered an embryo at this point and is 1/25 of an inch long.



Watch our monthly newsletter for the growth of baby Jesus!

Taken from the Lutherans for Life posters we have displayed in the fellowship hall.

Let's have a large LCMS presence at the Colorado March For Life **April 12th**! There will be an LCMS Prayer Service at 10:15am near the Capitol Building. Look for the LCMS and the Lutherans For Life flags to find us. Please register at this link <https://rm.lcms.org/2024-colorado-march-for-life/> even if you are driving yourself or carpooling to the event. Check with Elizabeth Dreher for potential carpooling.





All High school kids are welcome!
Remember – Confirmands this includes you!



The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of our fund-raising efforts toward the 2025 National Youth Gathering. The Lenten meal donations were very much appreciated, and the food was excellent! Also, Isaiah Dux and Tail Twisters 4-H Club collected over 900 pounds of peanut butter for the Fort Lupton Food & Clothing Bank. Isaiah thanked the congregation for their help in meeting this service event.

At our March meeting, we discussed our next events. We are looking at helping the Stewardship Board with the annual plant and bake sale. Look for more information on this event. We also discussed helping a congregational member with a spring clean-up event.

Wyatt Herring's school, Valley High School in Gilcrest, is performing "The Sound of Music", April 19-20 at 7:00 P.M. and April 21 at 2:00 P.M. Please let Nona know if you are interested in attending and which day/time works best for you.

Our next meeting is April 21st. We will share our prayer journals, do future planning of events, and have food and fellowship. Count your blessings and say your prayers. Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Nona Schaefer, Secretary for Board of Youth



Our next Meeting is:
April 21st
After Sunday School

Board of Education

A big thank you to the Confirmands who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt!

Please remember to continue to "Grow in Christ" and what better setting than a class where you can ask questions! We have Sunday School and Adult Bible Study every Sunday at 10:45 am. The adults are doing a study on Revelation. Downstairs we now have the confirmand class join the Youth with Scott Heusinkveld and Nona Schaefer has the grade school kids.



Keep an eye out for **Vacation Sunday School** dates for this summer.

-Tracy Tiscareño, Board of Ed



BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

2nd and 4th
Thursdays



SUNDAY SCHOOL
&
Adult Bible Study



LWML BIBLE STUDY
1st Saturday of the month 9:30am



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

1st Saturday of the month 7:30 am

Spring Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 – 2:00



We need YOUR help to make this happen!!

The proceeds will go to help pay for our youth to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering.

Let's support our Youth and show the importance of attending the Youth Gathering.

Sign-up sheets will be on a table at the base of the stairs in the "Fellowship Hall".

We will order vegetables/flowers from Kiyota Greenhouse to be delivered at 8:00 a.m.

Men needed:

- ✦ Set up tables in the parking lot from the conex storage before the plants arrive.
- ✦ Take down tables and return to the conex after the sale.

Helpers and Youth needed:

- ✦ Arrive at **8:30** to arrange plants on the tables.
- ✦ Arrive at **2:00** to bring in any unsold plants into the "Fellowship Hall".
- ✦ Help customers shop and load plants to their car.

Cashiers needed:

- ✦ Morning and afternoon shifts

Bake Sale:

- ✦ The bake sale proceeds will also be put towards the Youth attending the National Youth Gathering.
- ✦ Bring baked goods.
- ✦ Bakers, please put a price on your item in whole numbers... \$1, \$2, \$3.



Spread the word among neighbors and friends.

Thank you for your Time & Talent!

The Board of Stewardship