

*Southeast Circuit Reformation Update: Week Thirty Nine*

# Hymn: We All Believe in One true God

Rev. Matthew Tooman

When your pastor preaches and teaches from the pulpit or in the classroom or in the home he uses the Bible as the only source that informs that preaching and teaching. Moses, the Prophets and the Apostles recorded the intervention of God in the life of humanity. There are no other sources of truth regarding the Lord's saving work. Of course, it does take work to read the Bible. There is a correct bias or way to read the Bible.

In our society today, many people believe that the culture in which a person lives can interpret or judge the Bible based on contemporary norms. The meaning of the Bible, according to this philosophy, changes with the times. Truthfully, the Bible speaks counter culturally. It spoke counter culturally when it was written; it speaks counter culturally today. To deny the correct, original reading of scripture is to deny what God says about His will and His Salvation. It denies what God says about our condition and the need for forgiveness of sins. We can observe this as many "Christian" denominations interpret out of scripture the nature, meaning and purpose of marriage and sexuality.

The Christian Church utilizes confessions of faith to preserve a correct reading of scripture. The Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed supports the original intent of the writers of scripture. Sinful people manipulate language and the reading of scripture so that it says what we want. Being careful to read scripture, and resist the temptation to justify ourselves by changing what the Bible says, means we need a key. The Book of Concord acts as a key, but it is unwieldy for basic consumption. The creeds say succinctly what people need to engage in basic interpretation of scripture. In worship, congregations usually speak the creed after the readings and before the sermon or after the sermon. What a great way to check both our own understanding of what we heard in the readings, and the correctness of a pastor's preaching.



**500 Years of the Lutheran Reformation**  
**Southeast Circuit North Dakota District**

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Martin Luther said of the Apostles' Creed, "As the bee collects honey from many fair and beautiful flowers, so is this [Apostles'] Creed collected, in appropriate brevity from the books of the beloved prophets and apostles—from the entire Scriptures—for children and unlearned Christians. For brevity and clearness it could not have been better arranged, and it has remained in the church from ancient time."

<p>1 We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven, The Father, who to us in love Has the right of children given. He both soul and body feeds us; All we need His hand provides us; Through all snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betide us. He cares for us day and night; All things are governed by His might.</p>	<p>2 We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of ev'ry grace and blessing; Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit, Word made flesh, our elder brother; That the lost might life inherit, Was crucified for all our sin And raised by God to life again.</p>	<p>3 We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who, in highest heaven dwelling With the Father and the Son, Comforts us beyond all telling; Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit. Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit. All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally. Amen, amen. -LSB 954</p>
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Luther wrote the Hymn, "We all Believe in One True God." This Hymn puts to music the message of the Apostles' Creed. Sing it. Meditate on it. Let it ring in your ears, but even more let it ring in your mouth as your confession of faith.

*<sup>23</sup>No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup>Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. -1 John 2:23-25*

**CircuitPotluck!**

Sunday October 29th, we will have a Joint Circuit Reformation Divine Service followed by a pot-luck. The entire Circuit is invited to Trinity Lutheran Great Bend at 10 a.m. for Divine Service, led by the pastors of our circuit. Following there will be a "Brat-luck" Pot-luck. Bratwurst, hotdogs and desserts will be provided—your job is to bring the sides. This event will be the culmination of our Reformation 500 celebration.

Though the drive for church may be further that morning, it is good for us to be together to hear God's Word and receive his Sacrament. We in the Southeast Circuit are the body of Christ—together! Arrange Carpools! Come join us! Mark you calendar now!

Next Week: Catechism Chief Part Six—Rev. Anthony Ahrendt

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