



The Augsburg Confession

Articles of Faith and Doctrine

St. John Lutheran Church

Article Five: The Ministry

What are some common misperceptions about pastors and their work?

Acts 6:2-4 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Why is the Bible such a unique book in our society?

Article Five: The Ministry

According to this text, what should you expect from your pastor?

Is the focus on the pastor or on the gifts in this article? Why?

What is the origin of the office of the ministry?

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

What is the good news that regenerates us?

Article 14: Order in the Church

Who decides if someone may be a pastor?

Titus 1:5-8 Appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

What does a “rightly ordered call” look like?

What does this mean for the Christian work of everyone else in the Church?

Romans 10:13-17 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

John 3:5-8

Will all who hear the Word come to faith?

“The Word is always in action, causing faith or defiance, grace or judgment. We either come closer to God or further away. No one is ever left unaffected.”

– Bo Giertz

Will people come to faith apart from the Word?

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

John 14:6 I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

What is wrong with the view of the Anabaptists?

“Therefore we should and must insist that God does not want to deal with us human beings, except by means of his external Word and sacrament. Everything that boasts of being from the Spirit apart from such a Word and sacrament is of the devil.” - The Smalcald Articles.

Next Week: Article Six: New Obedience