

What is the ACLC?

The Association of Confessional Lutheran Churches is a body of Evangelical Lutheran congregations committed to teaching, confessing, and practicing the pure Christian faith as it has been revealed by the Triune God in the Holy Scriptures and rightly explained in the Lutheran Book of Concord (1580). The ACLC confesses that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, infallible and inerrant and thus are the only source of divine doctrine. The ACLC subscribes unconditionally to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) as well as the confessions contained in the Lutheran Book of Concord because all their doctrine is drawn from and in complete agreement with the Holy Scriptures.

What Caused the Formation of the ACLC?

The formation of the ACLC began when it became apparent that a number of Evangelical Lutheran Synod pastors and congregations would be removed from the ELS. So that the needs of the congregations might properly be met, the pastors of those congregations met together at the Oxbow Public Library in the Twin Cities area during the time of the 2007 ELS Pastoral Conference. The congregations and pastors believed they would be removed from the ELS because they protested the unscriptural removal of a pastor from his call and

expulsion from the synod. The formation of the ACLC is only indirectly due to the ELS' adoption of its theses on ministry. The ACLC exists because its member congregations and their pastors are committed to standing for what is true and right at all cost.

Is the ACLC Just Another Protesting Group?

No! The ACLC does not exist to protest and “carp” at the established synods. The ACLC’s purpose is to honor and glorify the Holy Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to carry out His will; to make a faithful confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and to foster true Biblical unity.

What Is the Relationship Between the ACLC and its Member Churches?

Synods consistently overstep their bounds, and are too often thought of as “the Church” while their member congregations are regarded merely as satellites. The ACLC is an “association” of churches, emphasizing the fact that the larger church organization exists for the benefit of the congregations, not the other way around. It is primarily in the congregations that the Gospel is preached and the sacraments rightly administered. Thus, the work of the

ACLC is always to support the work of the congregations, and not vice versa. At the same time the ACLC is not a loose confederation of independent churches. The ACLC is a Communion Fellowship, bound together by the same confession of faith. Each ACLC congregation, therefore, does its part (to the best of its ability) in supporting and contributing to the business and work of the ACLC.

How Does the ACLC Govern Itself?

The ACLC has chosen to structure itself basically along the lines of the traditional American Lutheran polity. The most noticeable difference is that the ACLC strives to operate by consensus. When voting becomes necessary, each congregation with her pastor casts one vote, because the ACLC considers a congregation to consist of the laity together with their pastor (s).

The ACLC also holds an annual pastoral conference where the pastors, as servants of the church, work on items from the general conference. The pastors in turn present their work back to the congregations. The two conferences work together to the effect that most official decisions are made in the congregations and merely reported to the general conference. Please consult the ACLC’s constitution for more details. It can be found on the ACLC website.

Why Another Lutheran Church Body?

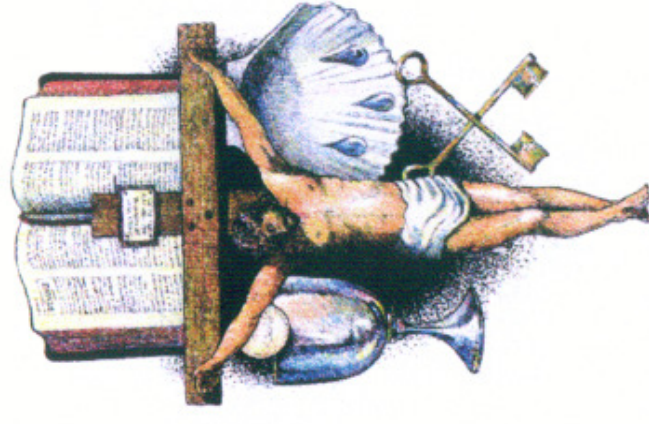
Initially the congregations of the ACLC banded together to help each other examine other church bodies. Numerous passages in the Scriptures command the orthodox to come out from and be separate from those whose teaching or practice is aberrant. Unable to find a larger church body that maintains proper discipline internally, clings purely to the Scriptures and confessions, and is not sectarian, the ACLC has remained its own church body. The ACLC, then, exists as an alternative for confessional Lutherans to the ever drifting status quo, which has set aside the pure Lutheran faith and embraced the morass of liberalism, false ecumenism, and popular Evangelicalism.

How can your congregation join the ACLC?

First, the congregation should visit the ACLC's website: <http://theaclc.org/>. There you will find the ACLC's doctrinal statement and constitution. Second, the pastor should contact the Superintendent of the ACLC to address any questions about the association. In most instances a pastoral colloquy will be necessary in order for a congregation to join the ACLC. In all instances the congregation will need to express in writing its agreement with the ACLC's doctrinal statement and its pledge to abide by the ACLC's constitution.



The Association Of Confessional Lutheran Churches



The seal of the ACLC reminds us that the eternal word of God is at the center of all we are and do: Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum—"The Word of the Lord Remains Forever." The association is formed around this eternal Word as correctly expressed in Lutheran doctrine.

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Sola Gratia
Sola Fide
Sola Scriptura