

## Welcome to St. Luke's Theological Academy

Thank-you for your interest in St. Luke's Theological Academy (SLTA). Through its developing curriculum, STLA seeks to offer parishioners and pastors opportunities to enhance their theological knowledge for mission and ministry.

### Diploma in Theological Studies

STLA is planning to offer a six module diploma course in theological studies. Each module will last 10-12 weeks. The first or prerequisite 10 week module will be offered once or twice per year (autumn and spring). Subsequent modules will be offered likewise.

- + Introduction to the Christian Faith (prerequisite)
- + Old Testament Theology
- + New Testament Theology
- + Christian History and Doctrine
- + Reformation Theology
- + Worship and Music

### Curricula and Essays

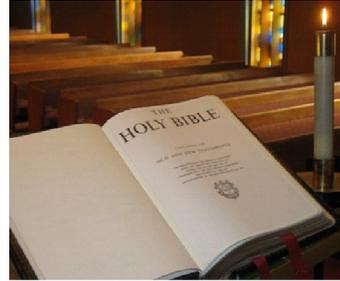
STLA offers Genuinely Lutheran Learning (GLL) curricula. GLL's Sunday School Curriculum for grades 1 - 6 (ages 5-12) is now available in PDF free of charge for personal and congregational use. STLA also offers "genuinely Lutheran" topical essays composed by Lutheran scholars, providing both succinct, in-depth. Both are currently available on the Academy portion of St. Luke's website.

## STLA's Theological Foundation

### Scripture Alone *sola scriptura*

Lutherans believe that the Bible is the word of God. The Bible is composed of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ makes the Bible come alive and creates the faith which makes sinners right before God. This teaching is called "justification by faith alone." Sharing this good news (gospel) at the heart of the Bible is the mission of Christ's church.



### Word Alone and Faith Alone *solo verbo et sola fide*

Lutherans understand Sin as unbelief in God as the only true God. Our broken relationship with God can only be made right (justification) through faith alone in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God has revealed his love for us in an almost unbelievable way. Through the purely proclaimed gospel in word and sacrament, the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens us in one true faith in Jesus Christ. Despite our remaining sin (unbelief), we are sanctified and reconciled with God through word and faith alone for God's promise of eternal life.

## Grace Alone and the Cross Alone *sola gratia et sola cruce*

As sinners, we human beings rebel against God. Simply put, we do not want God to be God. Instead, we want to make our own gods, or we want to make God in our own image, or we even want to make ourselves God.

So, God has taken decisive action. God has sent his Son, Jesus Christ, whom we sinners crucified, to bring us into a right relationship with God. Only a gracious God could so freely give of himself to remove us from our sin and set us free to live with God forever. The cross of Christ is the eternal expression of this gracious love of God.

As St. John writes,  
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, in order that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Likewise, St. Paul firmly believed that "nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). The cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrate God's invincible love for all humanity for all time. This promise of eternal life is God's gift of grace given only in the word of the cross of Christ.



## Continuing the Protestant Reformation

As Christians, Lutherans are Protestants. In fact, Lutherans are the original Protestants. The name Protestant was first used in 1529. That year, princes and bishops loyal to the pope tried to reverse the “evangelical” Reformation. In response, reform-minded princes and nobility “protested” against such actions. Since that time, the name “Protestant” describes all Christians who put biblical teaching before the religious rites, rules, and restrictions deemed contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Why Know a Lutheran Perspective?

The name “Lutheran” describes Christians who cherish the theological insights of Dr. Martin Luther. Luther was an Augustinian friar and professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg, Germany in the early 1500s. After a thorough study of the Bible, Luther noticed that many of the practices of the Roman (Catholic) Church conflicted with the gospel teachings in the Bible. So, Luther sought to make the truths of the gospel known to both the pope and the public.

Luther’s courageous efforts to reform the church won him both friends and enemies. In time, these efforts took hold, and today the Reformation has spread to all the world.

Jesus said, “If you remain in my word, ... you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).



## St. Luke’s Theological Academy

holds courses at

### St. Luke’s Lutheran Church

5150 Wilson Street  
La Mesa, California 91942



Telephone (619) 463-6633

Fax (619) 463-1468

[www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org/academy.php](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org/academy.php)

© Cymru Graphics

# Welcome

to  
St. Luke’s  
Theological Academy



Training the Priesthood  
of  
All Believers  
to be  
Compassionate and Confident  
Witnesses to the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ