

Lutheran FAQ: Why Do Lutherans Use a Creed?

What would you say if someone asked you to explain the Christian faith in 3 or 4 sentences?

Is it easiest for you to remember/recite the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, or the Athanasian Creed?

The creeds were written to help fight against wrong understandings of Jesus. What have you heard people say about God that isn't right? _____

What do you think are the most important things for someone to understand about Jesus?

Why do you think the Apostles' Creed starts with "I believe" and the Nicene Creed starts with "we believe"? Is there a difference for you? How does our community help shape what we believe? _____

The first creed was "Jesus is Lord." Why do you think the church made bigger creeds? Why do you think the 3 word version was helpful? Is it helpful now? _____

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Some churches choose not to recite a creed during worship. Why do you think Lutherans have kept this tradition? _____

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Look up the Athanasian Creed. Have you seen it before? How is it like the other creeds and different from them? _____

The church asks people to affirm their faith (at confirmation, for example) by reciting the Apostles' Creed. Why do you think that is? Have you done it before? _____

Deeper Dive:

- The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds can be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The Athanasian Creed is in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, or you can look it up online.
- The Book of Concord is available at your local Lutheran church, at [augsburgfortress.org](https://www.augsburgfortress.org), or at [bookofconcord.org](https://www.bookofconcord.org) (from an LCMS source).

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran F.A.Q. | Why Do Lutherans Use A Creed?" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL7UR9Q4XdQ>