

Anglicans and Lutherans

IN "FULL COMMUNION"


What does this mean?

It refers to the relationship between two distinct churches in which each maintains its own identity. Each believes the other to hold the essentials of the Christian faith. Neither seeks to re-make the other in their own image.

Did You Know?

After more than thirty years of dialogue, the Waterloo Declaration was signed in 2001, engaging the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada into an agreement of Full Communion.

Who are the Anglicans?



The Anglican Communion is a fellowship of churches within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, who are in communion with the see of Canterbury (Church of England). These churches are not bound together by any centralized authority above the provincial level but by mutual loyalty sustained through the common counsel of the bishops in conference (the Lambeth Conference which meets once every ten years). The Primates (national bishops) meet at least biennially for mutual counsel and pastoral care and the Anglican Consultative Council meet every three years to share information, develop policies on world mission and maintain dialogues with other Christian Churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the link between them. Decisions made by these global bodies are not binding on provinces unless action is taken at the provincial level to make them so.

Lutherans and Anglicans



Who are the Lutherans?

Lutheranism as a movement within the holy catholic and apostolic church dates back to 1517 when Martin Luther, a German Catholic priest, protested some of the practices in the church of the time.

Doctrine, orders and principal statements of the faith are defined by the Augsburg Confession, two catechisms and the Book of Concord. Lutherans confess the Bible to be the Word of God and the basis for what we believe; and acknowledge two sacraments - Holy Baptism and Holy Communion - as the visible means of bringing forgiveness, new life and the hope of resurrection.

The Canadian church is organized into five geographical areas called synods. A Lutheran is a member of the three distinct expressions of the church - national, synodical and congregational, each with unique ministries and each assuming particular elements of authority.

IN "FULL COMMUNION"

How does Full Communion affect me?

- You are welcome to commune in either church.
- Ordained persons may serve in either church.

Did You Know?

- There are over 70 million Anglicans world-wide.
- There are approximately 63 million Lutherans in the world with about 200 thousand in 642 congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

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Are there any Shared Ministries now?

St. Peter's Ecumenical Church, in Slave Lake AB., is one of about 30 Shared Ministries in Canada.

Their congregation is comprised of Anglican, Lutheran, United and other Christians, working together for 30 years. Three small church groups worshipping individually eventually joined together for financial and fellowship reasons. "We built a 'joint ownership' church involving each official denomination."

From the beginning they were adamant about not becoming a "melting pot." They have kept their denominational roots and traditions celebrating their sameness and respecting their differences. The board has equal elected representation and services rotate denominationally from week to week. Congregational members attend all services. They have learned much about their diversity and much about their commonality as they go about their life together.

Why Full Communion?

In John 17 Jesus prayed for unity, "That we may all be one...so that the world may believe."

Who else in the world is working towards full communion?

While at various stages, progress is especially notable in Australia, Brazil, Europe, India, Japan, the Middle East and the United States.

Anglican and Lutheran Seminaries Sign Lease Agreement

In August, 2005, the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad and the Lutheran Theological Seminary signed a three year lease for office and teaching space within the Lutheran Theological College located on the University of Saskatchewan campus. The move by Emmanuel and St. Chad to share space with Lutheran Theological Seminary marks another step forward toward achieving the long-term vision of both theological colleges for closer partnership on campus. "Our existing buildings are expensive to operate and maintain", remarked Dr. Deller, Principal of Emmanuel and St. Chad. "This allows us to reduce our expenses and also find ways to collaborate and work more closely together." "We are excited to have Emmanuel move in with us" proclaimed Dr. Erwin Buck, President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. He added "We have a long history of working together on campus and have even discussed a joint facility in the past".

Wetzel Release August 12 2005

Did

You Know?

Doctrine, orders and principal statements of Lutherans are defined by the Augsburg Confession, two catechisms and the Book of Concord. The Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles guide and instruct the Anglican faith practice.

What does "Full Communion" not mean?

It does not mean that either makes concessions which will alter their own statement of faith.

Lutherans and Anglicans



This is what Full Communion should be about

Despite the fact that I am terrified of speaking to teenagers, a while ago I had the wonderful experience of speaking to 1000 + young people who gathered for the Youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

For me, an Anglican priest and bishop, the opportunity of speaking to a room of (mostly) Lutheran youth, is thrilling. It is what 'full communion' should be about. I've enjoyed working closely, personally and in ministry, with Bishop Michael Pryse for over twenty years now and I look forward to continuing this close partnership.

One particular event that brings back fond memories, is of a winter carnival with sledding that we offered as a joint Anglican - Lutheran event. I could get few interested in coming until I re-named it "Come and Push a Lutheran Down the Hill."

Registrations flocked in.

Ralph Spencer

Anglican Bishop of Niagara

Anglicans and Lutherans



IN "FULL COMMUNION"

Anglican Lutheran dialogue has shown that the two communions have important similarities in doctrine, confessions and ecumenical understanding. By sharing our life and ministry in closer visible unity, we are strengthened for the continuation and credibility of our common mission in the world.

In July 2001, the Waterloo Declaration was signed, bringing Anglicans and Lutherans into "Full Communion"

Gathering Together - Anglicans and Lutherans

"It was great to join our voices together and sing with great harmony and unison!"

The Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and the BC Synod of the ELCIC joined Marty Haugen, well-known contemporary composer and Susan Briehl, theologian and writer in a lively and stimulating workshop on music, liturgy and preaching in Lent. The liturgy was natural and celebratory for the over 300 participants at a Friday evening service and Saturday workshop.

"Marty and Susan invited us to sing and pray together, to hear and respond to the scripture stories that proclaim the mystery of life reborn in Christ Jesus. Music directors, lay people and clergy all pondered readings from the gospel of John which illuminated the meaning of baptism for those in the early church. Our hearts were burning as a result of this event and enhanced our unity of faith."

Richard Stetson,

Gloria Dei Lutheran

Vancouver, BC

IN "FULL COMMUNION"

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Anglicans and Lutherans



Anglican-Lutheran Merger Story

The roots of Christ the King Lutheran in Port Alberni go back to 1964. By 2000, the declining local economy and reduced membership could no longer afford their own pastor. The congregation approached St. Alban's Anglican and an arrangement was agreed upon. It turned out to be a union "made in Heaven," with both parishes embracing one another. The Anglicans and Lutherans do not merely share a building. They are one congregation worshipping together, sharing one women's group, Sunday School, Council, VBS and various outreach projects.

Then, in 2004, All Saints (the other Anglican church in Port Alberni) merged with Christ the King and St. Alban to form a new entity, Trinity Church - Anglican and Lutheran. Now we are an integrated congregation, worshipping together using, in rotation, the Lutheran Book of Worship, The Book of Common Prayer, and the Book of Alternative Services.

Archdeacon Dianne &
the Rev. Patrick Tomalin

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On "Full Communion"

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"We Love Thine Altar, Lord"

In the midst of the fire that destroyed historic St. John's Anglican Church in Lunenburg (the second oldest Anglican Church in Canada) on November 1, 2001, I witnessed unforgettable moments. Several of the firefighters emerged from the burning building bearing the altar on their shoulder.

In the parish hall several teenagers were kneeling on the floor, washing the faces of Jesus and his apostles in the beautifully carved reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. I did not recognize the youth. It had been several years since I had been Rector of Lunenburg. Then one parishioner said, "all those young people are Lutherans!" My heart leapt and I wept as I thanked them. They joined us that evening as we gathered the town to celebrate a eucharist. Many Anglican teens had also helped as firefighters retrieved other artifacts from the church.

A week later Bishop Michael Pryse and I, at a joint Anglican-Lutheran service for Lunenburg County, recognized what those young people had done in the spirit of Full Communion!

The Right Reverend Fred J. Hiltz
Bishop
Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island