BIBLE REFERENCES

1

The Christian church is the community of believers created by the Holy Spirit

Unity of the church

One body in Christ
Many are one
One body
One body
Christian unity
Christ the head
Where two or three meet . . . Matthew 18:20

Romans 12:4,5
1 Corinthians 10:17
1 Corinthians 12:12–18
Ephesians 4:1–16
Ephesians 5:23

Images of the church

A holy temple Ephesians 2:19–22
Bride of Christ Ephesians 5:25–27
Flock John 10:14–16,27,28; 1 Peter 5:2a
Family Matthew 12:48–50; Ephesians 2:19
Body 1 Corinthians 12:12–31
Ephesians 1:23; Ephesians 4:15,16
Building 1 Peter 2:4–8

Building 1 Peter 2:4–8
Branch/vine John 15:1–17
Servant Mark 10:43–45; John 13:12–16
Light Matthew 5:14–16

Beliefs of Christian communities

1 Corinthians 12:3 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 Ephesians 4:5,6 Philippians 2:6–11 1 Timothy 2:1–6 2 Timothy 1:8–10

Living as a Christian community

Living in peace Colossians 3:5–17 Forgive one another Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2 Serving 1 Peter 4:10,11

Activities of Christian communities

Pentecost Acts 2:1–47
Facing opposition Acts 4:5–20
Communities Acts 4:32–37
Stephen Acts 6:1–15; 7:54–8:2
Dorcas Acts 9:36–42
Peter and Cornelius Acts 10:1–48

The church at Antioch
Persecution
Lydia
Acts 11:19–26
Acts 12:1–19
Acts 16:11–15
Paul preaches the gospel
Acts 20:7–12

Word and sacraments

Word

Acts 2:42 Acts 17:11 Colossians 3:16 1 Timothy 4:6–13

Baptism

Acts 2:38 Acts 8:26–39 Acts 19:5 Romans 6:3,4

Lord's supper

Matthew 26:26-30 Acts 2:46

Acts 20:7 1 Corinthians 10:16,17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



God has gathered his people together throughout history

Jesus' commission

Matthew 28:19,20 Colossians 3:12-17

New commandment

John 13:34,35

Jesus' promise

Matthew 16:18



Lutherans in Australia work together in ministry and mission

Faith and grace alone

John 3:16 John 8:31,32 Romans 1:16,17 Romans 3:21–28 Romans 5:1–5,8 Romans 6:23 Galatians 2:16 Ephesians 1:5–9 Ephesians 2:4–9

KEY BIBLE VERSES TO HEAR AND REMEMBER

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people.

Colossians 3:12 (CEV)

Jesus said: . . . I'll build my church, and death itself won't have any power over it.

Matthew 16:18 (CEV)

You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve.

This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own.

Ephesians 2:8 (CEV)

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1

The Christian church is the community of believers created by the Holy Spirit

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH Brainstorm a list of questions people have about the Christian church, eg Do you have to go to church services to be a Christian? Why do Christians worship on Sundays? What do Christians believe? Students use printed resources and interviews to research answers to the questions. (1a,1c)

CHURCH Write the word 'church' on the board. Ask the students to draw or write what they understand by this term. Share ideas and develop a class definition of church. (1a)

THE MEDIA'S VIEW OF CHURCH

Collect and display a range of newspaper and magazine articles and advertisements that discuss or depict religion, Christians or the church. Discuss society's and the media's view of the Christian church. How accurate are these images of the church? (1a)

BELONGING Students respond to Belonging means that . . . Students list the groups that they belong to. Discuss:

- What are the benefits of belonging to a group?
- What does it mean to belong to the church? (1a,1b)

WHICH RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARE

CHRISTIAN? Students brainstorm a list of as many religious groups as they can. Tell students we want to identify those groups which are 'Christian'. Discuss:

 How do we decide whether a group is Christian or not?

Students identify those groups which are Christian. Tell students that groups within the Christian church are usually called denominations. (1a,1b)

CENSUS STATISTICS Examine the census statistics on the number of people belonging to the major Christian churches in Australia. See TRS C3/1

- Which denominations have the largest numbers? Why?
- Which denominations are represented in the local area? (1b)

LOCAL CHURCHES Study a map of the local area. Mark the locations of churches. If appropriate, go for a walk in the local area to identify church buildings and record details about their denominational affiliation from their congregational signboard. (1b)

LITTLE RED BOOK Students develop a cover for a 'Little Red Book' which contains definitions of words that relate to the Christian church. Students may brainstorm a list of words or phrases they want to find definitions for and add to the book as the unit progresses. Include words and phrases such as 'sacrament', 'the body of Christ'. (1a,1b,1c)

2

God has gathered his people together throughout history

HOW DID THE CHURCH BEGIN?

Students work in groups to complete a pre-test about the history of the Christian church, eg

- Where did the Christian church begin?
- Who started the Christian church?
- Who were some of the leaders in the first Christian church? (2a)

HEROES AND GREAT LEADERS

Brainstorm a list of great heroes or leaders in history. Discuss:

- What qualities do the students admire?
- Which of the people listed do the students admire?

Students highlight any people on the list who were Christian leaders or heroes. Go on to investigate great Christian leaders through history and the contribution they made to the Christian church. (2a,2c)

HOW DID LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

BEGIN? Students work in groups to discuss the following questions:

- What do you think is different about a Lutheran school?
- What other Lutheran schools do you know of?
- How did Lutherans schools begin?

Groups share their responses and develop a list of questions students have about Lutheran schools and Lutherans in Australia. Go on to investigate the history of the Lutheran church in your state or local area. (2b)

THE CHURCH: ALWAYS THE SAME

In groups students discuss the statement: The church is the same today as it was 1000 years ago.

Students list questions they have about changes in the church. (2a,2c)



Lutherans in Australia work together in ministry and mission

LOGOS Examine and compare a range of logos, including the logo of the Lutheran Church of Australia. What do the logos reveal about the organisations they represent? What do you think the Lutheran logo shows? (3a,3b)

LUTHERAN LISTINGS Locate the listings under *Lutheran* on the Internet and in the state's capital city phone book. Discuss what is listed. Groups of students investigate the work of different Lutheran organisations. What does the Lutheran church do? (3a,3b)

VIDEO View the video *Hand in Hand* about the work of the Lutheran church in Australia. Go on to investigate the work of Lutheran church agencies. (3a,3b)

WHAT DO LUTHERANS DO? Ask the students to draw a 'Lutheran' person. In the drawing they can include what they think Lutherans do and believe. Share drawings. Discuss: What does 'Lutheran' mean? Use the discussion to formulate a list of questions for an investigation about the Lutheran church. (3a,3b)

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1

The Christian church is the community of believers created by the Holy Spirit

BIBLICAL IMAGES OF THE CHURCH

Explore the 'word pictures' used in the Bible to describe the church. See Bible References Menu. What do the 'word pictures' reveal about the church? Why do you think the church was described in this way?

Students investigate the early Christian church, its beliefs and practices. Students use the information to write their own word picture about the church. (1a)

ALL CHRISTIANS BELIEVE...

Students brainstorm in groups a list of things they think all Christians believe.

Students investigate the history and importance of the Apostles' and Nicene creeds.

Students gather statements of belief from different Christian denominations, listing the similarities and differences in Christian beliefs, eg:

- What does each church believe about Jesus?
- What does each church believe about the Bible?
- What does each church believe about the sacraments?
- What does each church believe about the way to heaven?

Students write a creed that could be used by Christians all over the world. (1b)

THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES THE

CHURCH Students use a concordance to find Bible references about the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Christian church. The book of Acts is an excellent starting point. Students record responses to: How did the Holy Spirit bring growth to the Christian church? (1a)

THE BODY OF CHRIST Study Paul's description of the church as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12: 12–31). List and discuss the roles listed. Encourage the students to reflect on their own spiritual gifts. Consider what the image of the body of Christ reveals about the church. Students draw or write their own reflection on this image of the church. (1a)

BELONGING Students interview members of the local congregation to discover why they belong to the church.

Research the sacraments as practices of belonging, eg baptism as an initiation rite, holy communion as an identification of those who belong and a strengthening of those who belong.

• What are the benefits of belonging?

Use dictionaries to define the word 'communion'.

 Why do you think the Lord's supper is sometimes called communion?

Students develop packs with information about what it means to belong to the Christian church. (1a,1c)

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Students draw or write what they understand by the term 'sacrament'. Investigate baptism and holy communion as celebrations of the Christian church. Use *Luther's Small Catechism* to investigate what Lutherans believe about the sacraments. (1c)

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

Arrange for guest speakers from Christian denominations to share the beliefs and practices of their denomination. Students may ask them about the importance of the word and sacraments in their church and about the reason they belong to their denomination. An investigation could also be conducted into the various titles given to leaders in Christian denominations, eg pastor, vicar, priest, pope, bishop. (1b,1c)

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Investigate denominations represented in the local area by arranging visits or inviting the ministers of Christian denominations to school. Include Eastern (Greek or Russian Orthodox), and Western (Catholic and Protestant) Christian churches. Investigate the history, main doctrines, patterns of organisation and emphases of the denominations. Analyse the similarities and differences. (1b)

THEN AND NOW Each student chooses a New Testament letter to read and study, eg I and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philemon, James, 1 Peter. Students compile a list of beliefs and practices of the first Christian congregations.

Students investigate Christian congregations today to compare and contrast the first congregations with congregations today. Discuss and record:

- What has changed in Christian congregations?
- · What has remained the same?

Read and discuss Matthew 16:18 and Ephesians 1:22.

- Who do Christians believe is the head of the church?
- What impact would this belief have on the way Christians view the church? (1c)

DEBATE: Students investigate and prepare for a debate on the topic:

The world would be a better place without any churches.

In preparation for the debate the class could investigate and record ways in which the church contributes to society, eg welfare organisations in Australia and the world. (1c)

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES Students use dictionaries to define 'ecumenical'. Investigate how the local Christian churches are working towards unity.

 What ecumenical activities are happening in your local area, eg school and industrial chaplaincy Christmas carol evenings? (1b)

2

God has gathered his people together throughout history

HEROES AND GREAT LEADERS OF

THE CHURCH Tell stories or read biographies of important people from various denominations, eg Martin Luther, Pope John XXIII, John Calvin. Discuss to which denomination they belonged, what they believed and the contribution they made. (2a)

TIME LINE Develop a time line to show the emergence of different denominations in the history of the Christian church. Investigate what led to the formation of the different groups. Students could focus on the denominations represented in the class or school and prepare a report about the history of the denomination in the local area or in Australia. (2a,2b)

THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Explore the beliefs and practices of the early Christian church. Develop a series of pictures to show the activities of people in the early church. See

Acts 1:8 Acts 2:1–4 Acts 2:38,42–47 Acts 4:8–20 Acts 5:14–16,32 Acts 6:1–7

Acts 13:2,4,6–10 Acts 20:28. (2a,1a)

WHAT IS CONSTANT AND WHAT

HAS CHANGED Investigate the features of the Christian church in different times in history. What are the features of the church that have remained constant and what aspects of the church have changed? (2c)

HISTORY OF LOCAL

CONGREGATIONS Investigate the history of local congregations. Interview pastors and contact the local council or library for information. How have the local congregations changed over time? What features remain the same? (2a)

ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL CHRISTIAN

CONGREGATIONS Investigate local Christian congregations. Find out about and list their beliefs and practices. Compare them with stories in Acts about the early church. See Bible References Menu. (2c,1c)

THE EARLY CHURCH: IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND PLACES Research key

people or places in the early church, eg people: Peter, John, Stephen; places: Jerusalem (Acts 2:1–4),

Philippi (Acts 16:13, 20–24), Damascus (Acts 9:3–10)

Write reports on the research and compile the reports into a class book. (2a)

WHO AM I? Develop a 'Who Am I?' game based on the lives of great Christian leaders, eg Martin Luther, John Calvin, David Livingstone. (2a)

CITIES OF IMPORTANCE Using

encyclopedias, investigate the first major centres of Christianity established by the followers of Jesus: Rome, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople.

Although Christians in these centres shared a common faith, the rules and practices for each centre evolved according to local traditions and customs.

Students work in groups to develop reports on each city. (2a)

THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED

Interview older members of a local congregation to explore how the congregation has changed. What has not changed? (2c)

THE HISTORY OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA Investigate

the history of the Lutheran church in Australia. Use family history books to consider the reasons for settlement. Research what the first Lutheran congregations and schools in Australia were like. (2b)

3

Lutherans in Australia work together in ministry and mission

LUTHERAN ORGANISATIONS Identify

Lutheran organisations listed in the phone book of the state's capital city. Students write to the organisations for information about their work and ministry. Students share their research with the class. (3a,3b)

SURF THE NET Surf the Internet to find listings for *Lutheran*. Students list ten countries which have Lutheran congregations. Analyse the home pages of Lutheran congregations in the world. What are common features of Lutheran congregations around the world? (3a,3b)

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE Write or fax Lutheran World Service for a project kit. Locate on a world map the places where LWS is working. Use the project sheets to develop posters or a school worship service. (3a,3b)

ACTION PLAN Develop an action plan for supporting the work of Lutheran World Service. Consider how the students can support and promote the work of LWS in the school community. Give students who are active in other denominations the opportunity to support equivalent organisations. (3a,3b)

DATABASE Study the brochure *Introducing* the Lutheran Church. Students work with a partner to choose an aspect of the Lutheran church's ministry and mission to investigate and report on. Pairs add their information to a class database about the ministry and mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia. (3a,3b)

MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE

LCA IN THE WORLD Investigate the ministry of the Board for Church Cooperation in World Mission from their magazine *Mission Panorama* and calendar (both available from BCCWM office). The teacher may contact them, asking for the names of people who may be willing to correspond with the class, eg Bible translators or missionaries who are working overseas. (3a,3b)

LUTHER'S DESCRIPTION OF

CHURCH Use Luther's explanation of the third part of the creed in the *Large Catechism* to explore Luther's understanding of the Christian church. Students investigate the local Lutheran congregation and consider what Luther might say to it today. (3a)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

BIBLE VERSE Students learn an appropriate Bible verse (see page 10).

SONGS Students learn songs related to the concept (see Music and Worship Ideas in the appendix).

TIME LINE (A recommended activity for Level 1) If the class is developing a time line for Christian Studies, place information about the historical development of the Christian church on the time line.

GOD FILE (A recommended activity for Level 2) If the class is developing a God File, add information about the relationship Christians believe God has with his church.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES



The Christian church is the community of believers created by the Holy Spirit

BOOKS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Develop books entitled: Everything you wanted to know about the Christian church. Include the questions and answers to common questions people have about the Christian church. (1a,1b)

ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF THE CHURCH Design a sculpture or painting to convey your understanding of the worldwide Christian church, its unity and diversity. (1b)

A CURRENT AFFAIRS INTERVIEW ABOUT THE CHURCH Prepare an interview for a current affairs program to explore: 'What does it mean to belong to the Christian church?' (1a,1b,1c)

SONGS Study songs about the Christian church. Use a familiar tune (or develop your own) to compose your own song about the Christian church. (1a,1b,1c)

ROLE-PLAYS Write a series of role-plays to teach others about the importance of God's word and the sacraments for Christian communities. (1c)

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS Write a non-fiction text about the Christian denominations. Include the similarities and differences in beliefs and practices. (1b)

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITY Plan an ecumenical activity for the local Christian congregations. What would be the aim and message of the activity? (1b)

2

God has gathered his people together throughout history

RAP SONGS Write a rap about significant people in the history of the Christian church. (1a)

CHRISTIANITY: THEN AND NOW

Design a series of posters with the theme *Christianity then and now.* (2a,2c)

BOARD GAME Develop a board game about important events and people in the history of the Christian church. (2a)

LEADERS OF THE PAST WITH MESSAGES FOR TODAY Prepare a message from a great Christian leader to present to the class. Use research about the leader's life to provide the main features of the talk. (2a)

LUTHERAN HISTORY Students prepare posters explaining the history of the Lutheran church in their area. Student could interview members of the local council to gain information about the contribution Lutherans have made to the local area. (2b)

TV COMMERCIALS Script a TV commercial to advertise your local congregation to the community. Include in your advertisement the beliefs, practices and activities of your local congregation. (2c,1a,1c)

IMAGES OF THE CHURCH
THROUGH HISTORY Design a series of paintings to depict common features of the Christian church through history. (2a,2c)



Lutherans in Australia work together in ministry and mission

MURAL Make a mural for the school about the work of the Lutheran church in Australia and the world. In the mural show the different aspects of the church's work and mission. (3a,3b)

BROCHURE Examine a range of brochures to explore the features and layout of brochures. Design a brochure about the Lutheran church. Consider the information that will need to be included. (3a,3b)

HOME PAGE Design a home page for the local Lutheran congregation on the Internet. Use the home pages of congregations around the world as models of what could be included. (3a,3b)

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY Prepare a school assembly to share with the school community information about the work of Lutheran World Service. (3a,3b)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The introduction to LIFE contains suggested general resources for all LIFE concepts.

The following resources may be used in a unit about *God gathers people into the Christian church.*Some of these resources may be out of print.

They are listed because they (or others similar to them) may be found in school libraries.

Preview these and any other resources you intend using to be sure that they are appropriate for your students.

LITERATURE — NON-FICTION

The Christian church

Balchin J What Christians Believe 1984 Oxford Berthier R The Birth of the Church 1980 Hodder and Stoughton

Berthier R *The First Christians* 1980 Hodder and Stoughton

Brevilly E *Pilgrims of the World* 1993 Harper Collins

Brown A *The Christian World* 1984 Macdonald Chadwick O *A History of Christianity* 1995 Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Crawford M & Rossiter G A History of Christianity Series (Books 1–5) 1991 EJ Dwyer

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Hernandez X & Comes P A Town through History 1990 Wayland

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The History of Christianity: A Lion Handbook 1990 Lion Publishing

Vignazia F The Middle Ages: An Illustrated History of the Church 1979 Winston Press

Watson C Christian Beliefs and Cultures Series 1996 Franklin Watts

Weiss N According to Plan: The Story of God and His People 1984 Lutheran Publishing House

Lutherans

Davey C Martin Luther, Hero of the Reformation 1992 Hunt and Thorpe

Davey C *The Monk Who Shook the World* 1960 Lutterworth Press

Floyd E Makers of History 1980 Hamlyn

Nohl F Martin Luther 1963 Concordia

Paulos V *Luther, Servant of God* 1966 Concordia

Polack W The Story of Luther 1941 Concordia

Schild M & Hughes P *The Lutherans in Australia* 1996 Australian Government Publishing Services

Williamson F *Pilgrimage to Truth: The Life of Martin Luther* OMF Publishing

The Story of Lutherans in Australia Lutheran Teachers College 1988 Lutheran Publishing House

Eternal Word (Year 7: Called to Witness) 1981 Concordia Publishing

MUSIC

Scripture in Song

God Version 1.0 1998 Robin Mann (book, CD, tape)

As One Voice 1994 Willow Connection Manly Vale NSW:

Come All You People Bell J 1994 Glasgow: Wild Goose resource

Love from Below Bell and John 1997 Glasgow: Wild Goose Resource

Deep Waters Watts T 1992 Dee Why NSW: Willow Connection

Many and Great Bell J 1990 Glasgow: Wild Goose Resource

AUDIO-VISUAL

VIDEOS

Hand in Hand: LCA Congregations' Joint Ministries Traeger I 1997 Lutheran Church of Australia

Acts of the Apostles Part 6 Spreading the Good News Don Bosco Multimedia's Special Catechetical Edition

Children's Heroes from History (Video) 1996 Christian Multimedia North Ryde NSW

COMPUTER/CD-ROMS

Christian Church Christian History (CD ROM) 1996 Christian Multimedia North Ryde NSW (A division of Australian Religious Film Society) Encarta Encyclopedia

OTHER

Introducing the Lutheran Church (brochure) 1996 Openbook Publishers

Lutheran Church of Australia home page: http://lca.org.au

Lutheran World Service home page: http://lca.org.au/alws

FOR TEACHERS

Noack, M *365 Ideas for Christian Teachers* 1988 Lutheran Publishing House

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Bainton R Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther 1978 Abingdon Press

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1993–94 History of the Lutheran Church in New Zealand King J

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1980 The Emigrant to South Australia (extracts) Doeger, G

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1978 The Heart of a Man: a biography of missionary G H Schwarz Rose G

1977 *The Bell Sounds Pleasantly*: History of Lutherans in the Wimmera and Mallee districts of Victoria

1976 The Coming of the Wends

1974 Death on 'The Line' (Hermannsburg)

1973 From Joiner's Bench to Pulpit: Autobiography of Adolf Hermann Kempe

Autobiography of Adolf Hermanii Kem

1971 Sedan Centenary Scherer PA

1969 One Hundred Years: Jindera New South Wales 1868–1968

1968 From Farm to Factory: One hundred years of Lutheranism in New South Wales

Put a plastic sleeve in this section of your LIFE binder to keep your own collection of clippings, cartoons, stories, photos, etc which you can use for these units. Add to your collection whenever you come across something that might be useful.