



An Adult Exploration of the Lutheran Expression of Faith

SESSION TWO: BEING ECUMENICAL

1. The Roots of Ecumenical Christianity
 - a. Defining “ecumenical” as “representing the inhabited earth.”
 - b. Defining “catholic” as “the whole undifferentiated mass of people who belong to the Christian church.”
 - c. Defining “church” as the “called out ones”
2. Examples of Called Out Ones
 - a. Abram/Abraham - who stepped into his calling not knowing where he was going
 - b. Israel - “the light to the nations”
 - c. The apostolic church - born when the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - d. The church through time - called out of darkness into light
 - e. The church’s situation - In the world, but not of the world
 - f. The church’s *telos* or purpose - heading toward a future fellowship promised at the close of the age.
3. Scriptural Metaphors of the Church’s Ecumenical *Telos* or End Point
 - a. The Great Feast - Matthew 22:1-14 or Luke 14:15-24
 - b. The Throne of the Lamb - Revelation 7:9-17
 - c. Two images that paint a picture of the church at worship where Word and Sacrament are celebrated - an incarnate participation in the timeless ecumenical fellowship of the Lamb
4. The Ecumenical Creeds of the Church
 - a. The Apostles’, Nicene and Athanasian Creed
 - b. The Creeds - abstracts of the Word of God shared by the ecumenical church across traditions and cultures centered in the Triune identity of God.
 - c. Luther’s explanation of the Apostles’ Creed in The Small Catechism.