

## Two opposing theologies are in ELCA

Teaching	Confessional Lutheran	Liberal Protestant
Truth	Absolute and revealed by God	Contextual and discovered by humankind
Bible	Sinners are the problem	The Bible is the problem
God	Revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit	They create and imagine other names
Original Sin	“Full of evil lust and inclination”	“God made me this way”
Son of God	Jesus – only name and way to God	Perhaps other names and ways to God
Holy Spirit	Comes in the external Word of God	Comes in internal word or experience
Law	Always demands righteousness of sinners	Most no longer applies to people
Gospel	Does what the law can’t by grace	Nullifies the law
Resurrection	Physical – Jesus raised, body and all	Spiritual, metaphorical or mythical
Repentance	“Entire life . . . to be one of repentance”	Only parts of life call for repentance
Justification	Adam and Eve in us need to die	Adam and Eve in us free to live
Faith in Jesus	Necessary gift given by the Holy Spirit	Optional gift – Jesus is not the only way
Sanctification	God grants us holiness	Wholeness exists naturally in creation
Holy Baptism	God uses it to drown sinners and raise saints	Sinners use it as a membership card
Holy Communion	The Lord’s Supper – Jesus is the host	Our banquet – humankind is the host
Church’s mission	Make disciples, baptize and teach obedience	Work for social justice and peace
Kingdom of God	Coming from above and from the future	Building from below and from the present