

What do Lutherans believe with regard to...

The Triune God?

The term *Trinitas* (Latin) was coined by the early church theologian Tertullian (A.D. 160-225). While not a biblical term, The Trinity represents the crystallization of New Testament teaching over its first several centuries. In writing his first letter to the Corinthians in about A.D. 55, just two decades after Christ's death and resurrection, the Apostle Paul correlates Spirit, Lord and God (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). There is a similar correlation in the benediction of 2 Corinthians 13:14 and in the trinitarian baptismal formula of Matthew 28:19. (*baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*)

The church's confession of faith originated as a baptismal formula.

"In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit asserts that God reveals himself in a threefold manner because he is a triune God...when the church, on the basis of the prophetic and apostolic witness, confesses one God it confesses its faith that the creator at the beginning of time and the re-creator at the end and the redeemer at the center of time is one God. And again, when the church, in obedience to the same witness, worships this one God by three distinct names, it recognizes and acknowledges the difference between creation, reconciliation, and redemption, and it confesses in the one God the three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

(*Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church*).