

What do Lutherans believe with regard to...

The Bible?

- The Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. We believe, with other Lutheran church bodies, that *"it is the source and norm of our faith and life"*. We accept the Bible as God's complete and final revelation of himself to humanity.
- That revelation was first expressed in the 39 books of the Old Testament, which primarily details God's creation of the world, and his covenant relationship with and work through the Hebrew people, otherwise known as "Israel".
- God's final revelation was expressed in the 27 books of the New Testament, which tells the story of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. Written by eyewitnesses the gospel's are the account of Jesus' teachings, death, resurrection. The other books describe the birth of the Christian church - the faith and experiences of Jesus first followers.
- In reading the Bible, we encounter God's written word that points us to the need for and gracious invitation into a relationship with Jesus Christ, God's *"incarnate or living word"*.