

Denomination	LUTHERANS		PRESBYTERIANS		ANABAPTISTS	
History	1517 with Martin Luther & reformation		1500's w/John Calvin & John Knox		1500's; Mennonites, Amish, Brethren	
Polity/Governance	Congregational, the pastor + a number of elected lay officers.		Presbyters (Elders) are elected by local churches to govern regions of churches.		Congregational, but varies greatly. Local churches are autonomous (self-governing).	
Authority	Scripture alone, 1580 "Book of Concord", Creeds (Apostle's, Nicene, & Athanasian)		Scripture alone, Westminster Confession of Faith		Follow literal words of scripture (holy kiss, pacifists, foot washing). Agree with "5 Solas".	
Beliefs & Practices	The Five Solas are... 1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone") 2. Sola Fide ("faith alone") 3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone") 4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone") 5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone")		Calvinistic Soteriology (doctrine of salvation)...[TULIP] *see "monergism" 1. total depravity 2. unconditional election 3. limited atonement 4. irresistible grace 5. perseverance of the saints		Disagreed on infant baptism (re-baptizers). Practice adult (believer's) baptism. Lord's Supper twice a year (symbolic). Plain clothes. Some speak "Pennsylvania Dutch" Consider themselves neither Protestant nor Catholic.	
Salvation	<i>There is absolutely nothing we can do to "be saved" - Jesus Christ has already done everything necessary. In His death and resurrection, everyone who believes in Jesus as Savior has been brought back into a right relationship with God. That means that, on account of Jesus, everyone who believes is "justified," or declared innocent by God. God has done justice to the world's sins; because of Jesus, all who believe are forgiven and will live eternally.</i>		<i>"We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God's displeasure, except by His mercy. We believe that salvation is by God alone, as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith."</i>		Most are part of "separated communities". Reject predestination/Calvinism. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers salvation from sin and a new way of life to all people. Some anabaptist groups additionally emphasize obedience to parents or community standards as evidence of salvation.	
Comparisons	Lutheran... > universal atonement > faith in Jesus leads to salvation > baptism & Lord's Supper are means of God's grace > "The Divine Service" (liturgy): 1.) The Prelude 2.) The Gathering 3.) The Service of the Word 4.) The Meal 5.) The Sending	Presbyterian... > limited atonement > faith in Jesus follows God's unconditional election > baptism & Lord's Supper are symbols of God's grace > "Book of Common Worship" (liturgy): 1.) The Gathering 2.) The Word 3.) The Eucharist 4.) The Sending	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)... > largest & liberal > allows for the ordination of both men and women, including non-celibate homosexuals > church property belongs to the denomination > social issues: abortion, no-fault divorce, & homosexual practice not considered sin	Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)... > 2 nd largest & conservative > only ordains men in "obedience to the New Testament standard for those who rule the church and teach doctrine." > church property belongs to the congregation > social issues: opposite stance as PCUSA list	*Monergism... >Calvinism (John Calvin in the footsteps of Augustine) >regeneration of an individual is the work of God through the Holy Spirit alone >Lutherans & Presbyterians	Synergism... >Arminianism (Jacobus Arminius in the footsteps of Pelagius) >human will (& sometimes behavior) cooperates with God's grace in order to be regenerated >Anabaptists



