

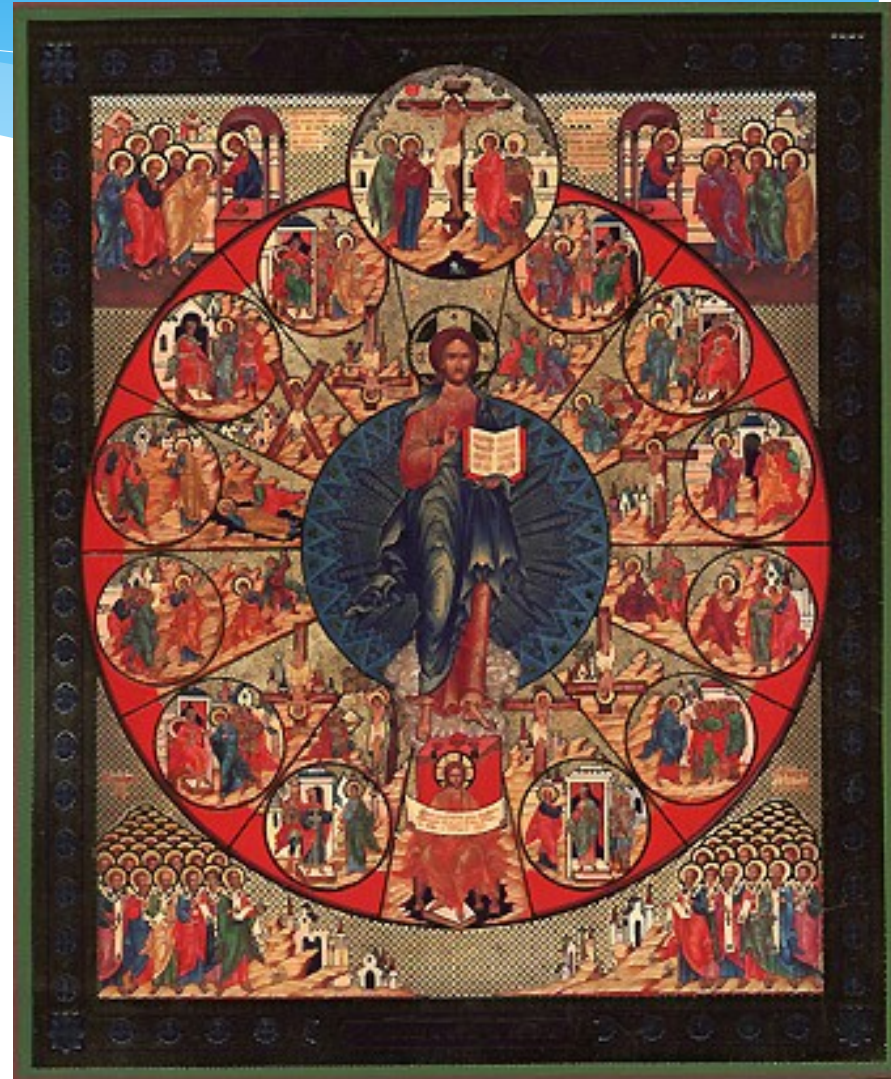
The Augsburg Confession of 1530

Article VII: The Church

ARTICLE VII

The Church

❖¹ Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever.



Matthew 16:18

+ **Matthew 16:18** “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

1 Peter 1:23-25

† **1 Peter 1:23** “You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever.” {Isaiah 40:6-8} And this is the word that was preached to you.”

ARTICLE VII

The Church

- ❖ The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered.

Psalm 149:1

† Psalm 149:1 “Praise the LORD (Hallelujah). Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.”

ARTICLE VII

The Church

❖² For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments.



ARTICLE VII

The Church

❖³ It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. ⁴ As Paul says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:5–6).

Colossians 2:16-17

† **Colossians 2:16** “Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”