

<i>Confession</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Author(s)</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Apostles Creed	150 AD		Summary of the Christian faith in the Triune God
Nicene Creed	325 AD		Summary of the doctrine concerning God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who is both true God and true man
Athanasian Creed	480 AD		Detailed description of the doctrine of the Trinity, primarily intended for use among preachers and teachers
Small Catechism	1529	Martin Luther	To teach people - especially the young - the simple truths of the Bible, focusing on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and to prepare people for properly receiving the Lord's Supper
Large Catechism	1529	Martin Luther	To give preachers, teachers and parents a tool for explaining more in-depth the teachings of the Christian doctrine for the average person in the pew
Augsburg Confession	June 25, 1530	Philip Melanchthon	To set forth before the Emperor Charles V the teachings of the Lutherans, highlighting the doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Christ, and showing that the Lutheran preaching and teaching was in agreement with the doctrine of the apostles
Apology of the Augsburg Confession	April 1531	Philip Melanchthon	This document was a defense (further explanation) of what was presented in the Augsburg Confession. It is seven times longer than the Augsburg Confession. Since the Roman Catholics had written their own confession (the Confutation) in response to the Augsburg Confession, the Lutheran leaders especially explained thoroughly the teaching of how sinners are saved only by faith in Christ. Article IV is long but very well written.
Smalcald Articles	1537	Martin Luther	The purpose of this document was to set forth clearer than ever the teaching differences between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholic Church. This was written with a stronger tone, and it covered some points not previously covered in the Augsburg Confession (such as differences on the Mass, on human traditions, on confession of sin and absolution, etc.).
Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope	1537 (published 1540)	Philip Melanchthon	The purpose of the Treatise is to show that the power of the pope goes against Scripture; the position of the papacy actually fits the Bible's description of the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2).
Formula of Concord	1577	Chemnitz, Andrea, Selnecker, Musculus, Cornerus, Chytraeus	Since a number of controversies threatened the unity of the Lutheran Church following the time of Martin's death in 1546, this writing sets forth very clearly what to teach and what not to teach on eleven different subjects (such as, on original sin, on free will, on Law and Gospel, on the Lord's Supper, on predestination, etc.)