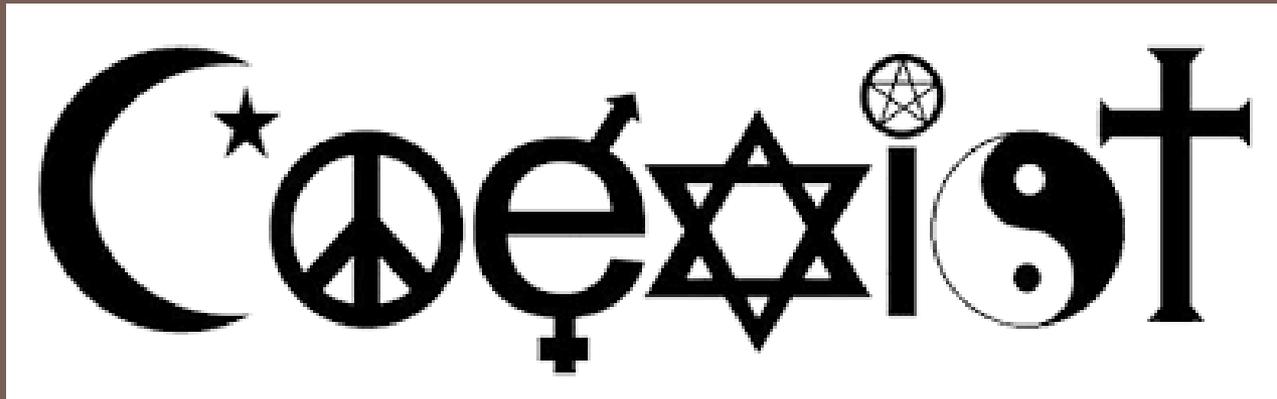


# MANY FAITHS

Session 1: An Introduction



Session 1: An Introduction



## Session 1: An Introduction

# Why are you taking this course?

Lack of knowledge

Our own faith journeys demand interaction

What to do about exclusivist Christian claims

We love non-Christians - can't they come to heaven, too?

Lack of understanding and divisiveness in world

How to respond to people in Christianity who see things differently

Actual neighbors

We work closely with people of other faiths

# Course Objectives (and outline)

1. Explore the **content** of other religions through dialogue

2. Reflect on how **Lutheran Christianity** shapes how we view other faith traditions.

3. Examine how we should engage with and organize our **life together** with people of other faiths

4. Address any questions that you have

# WHAT IS RELIGION?



- values
- framework of belief
- deals with the "transcendent"
- search for understanding and meaning
- helps us confront the unknown
- belief
- philosophy

- practices (spiritual)
- the structure humans make
- rites and rituals

- commitment (full life)

- like-thinking
-

## 4 Cs

- Creed (beliefs)
- Cult (rituals)
- Code (morals)
- Community

Oriented toward articulating the meaning of life and how to live

CHRISTIANITY:  
IS IT UNIQUE?  
HOW?



# What we can learn from this



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- Christianity has similarities to and differences from other religions – it's important to remember both.

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- Christianity has similarities to and differences from other religions – it's important to remember both.
- Religion may contain divine teachings, but it is lived out by humans. It is a very human thing.
  - This means that *your* stories and experiences of the holy can build bridges!

# DIVERSITY VS. PLURALISM



# 3 Rules of Interfaith Dialogue

- 1. When trying to understand another religion, you should ask the adherents of that religion and not its enemies.
- 2. Don't compare your best to their worst.
- 3. Leave room for “holy envy.”
  - Krister Stendahl, Lutheran Bishop in Sweden and Professor of New Testament at Harvard Divinity School

QUESTIONS?

