Church History

**Martin Luther** – Beliefs and Legacy

1. Luther’s Beliefs
   1. Scriptures are the basis of authority for the believer
   2. Salvation is by grace through faith (Luther emphasized this so strongly in opposition to the Catholic belief that he became imbalanced in his view of obedience, discipleship, and holiness)
   3. Two sacraments
      1. Communion
      2. Baptism
   4. Catholic beliefs discarded by Luther
      1. Elevation of the clergy and the pope (priesthood of all believers)
      2. Praying to saints and to Mary
      3. Veneration of relics
      4. Pilgrimages
      5. Indulgences
      6. Monasticism
      7. Purgatory
      8. Prayers for the dead
   5. Problematic positions
      1. Predestination
      2. Baptism of infants
      3. Union of church and state
2. Luther’s Legacy
   1. Began the Protestant Reformation
   2. Founded the Lutheran Church