

- (b) The Evangelical Congregational Church  
(prominent in our area)

(c) The Salvation Army (perhaps not a "church" in the sense that we think of organization but yet a "church" in terms of function and fulfillment.)

e. Current assessment:

Perhaps no single denomination has been hurt as much by liberalism as has the Methodist church. We will document this later, however. The hierarchical system has not helped Methodism in this line in that the ruling bishops have tended to be more liberal than the congregations. It is still a very large body and has a militant evangelical segment but has not been able to rally itself to the historic standards and continues to suffer from theological diversity and broadened programs.

7. The Lutheran Bodies

(foundational notes on Lutheranism are on 28-29)

a. Some defining notes:

The study of the Lutheranism is complicated by the many varieties that existed prior to 1960 in general and 1988 more particularly. Great mergers have made a more unified Lutheran expression in our day than is witnessed historically and tracing the background of this merger activity is not an easy task. I am not giving many people-names but will try to deal with the major bodies and the aspects that made them unique..to some degree. The following factors are important in thinking about the Lutheran setting in the United States:

(1) doctrinal arrangements: Lutheran bodies tended to be loyal to:

- (a) the Augsburg Confession
- (b) the Formula of Concord
- (c) both of these
- (d) rarely neither of these
- (e) plus the historic creeds,

They tended to be more and less Calvinistic (following Luther on predestination, etc.) and likewise on sacramentalism. Therefore