

alms

money or offerings
of people for the
work of the church

annulment

a legal decree that states
that a marriage was
never valid

anti-semitic

relates to anti-Jewish
words or actions

beatitudes

statements taught by Jesus
concerned with virtue and
how a follower of Jesus
should conduct themselves

catechism

a book giving a brief
summary of the basic
principles of Christianity in
question-and-answer form

circumcision

the removal of the
foreskin from the
penis

communion

the sacrament of the
Eucharist as received
by a congregation

congregation

the members of a
specific religious group
who regularly worship at
a church

conversion

a change in one who
adopts a new
religion or faith

covenant

God's promise to the
human race

crucifixion

an ancient method of execution, where the condemned person is tied or nailed to a large wooden cross and left to hang until dead; Jesus Christ was crucified

denominations

large groups of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organised under a single administration

diet of worms

a general assembly of the estates of the Holy Roman Empire which took place in Worms, a small town in what is now Germany

ecumenical

belonging to or accepted by the Christian church throughout the whole world, no matter what denomination

epistles

refers to a specific group of books in the New Testament that either were letters or were written in that form

Eucharist

an alternate name for communion or the Lord's Supper

evangelicals

those who see the Bible as inspired by God and as the sole basis for Christian belief and conduct

excommunicated

action depriving or suspending membership in a religious community

final solution

the Nazi program of exterminating Jews during the Third Reich

gentile

a name given to anyone who is not a Jew

golden rule

a basic principle found in most major religions and means 'treat others as you would like to be treated'

gospel

the good news of the redemption preached by Jesus and the apostles

grace

God's undeserved favour in granting forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus

Holy Spirit

one of the three persons of God, the others being Father and Son

indulgences

a Roman Catholic practice whereby a sinner is granted a pardon or release from the expectation of punishment

justification by faith

the process by which
God declares a believer
as righteous on the basis
of faith in Christ

laity

church members
who are not
ordained clergy

legalism

the reliance on following rules
and performing good deeds in
order to be saved, rather than
relying on the grace of God
alone

Lord's Supper

an alternate name
for the celebration of
the Eucharist