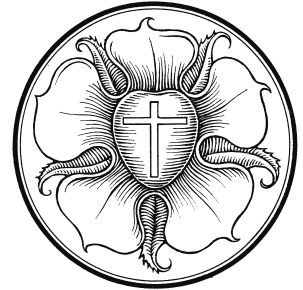


October 2021

When Reformation Day comes around on October 31, Lutherans are often accused of worshipping Martin Luther in some way. This couldn't be any farther from the truth. What is true, is that Luther was an excellent scholar, writer, and preacher whom God used to once again bring with great clarity the most precious Gospel of Jesus crucified for sinners and raised from the dead that we, by faith in Jesus and His work, are justified before God. Our sins are atoned for through Christ alone and He gives us life and salvation rescuing us from sin, death, and the devil.

Because of this clear truth, our Lutheran Confessions (which we subscribe to because they are a clear exposition of God's Word) contain several writings by Luther which teach us great things and bring comfort to God's people. We don't worship Luther - we worship the same Triune God he proclaimed and are not shy to say so. The event that we commemorate on October 31 is the beginning of Luther's boldness to point to Christ alone as revealed in the Scriptures as our only source of faith and hope. What began with him nailing the 95 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg that day in 1517, continued as Luther stood on the sure Word of God and many more became bold to follow suit.



And so it is that we have inherited the love of God's Word and have retained the heritage that has been handed down which extols the gifts of Christ. And we too should not be afraid to be bold. *If God is for us, who can be against us?* St. Paul asks rhetorically (Romans 8:31). Which is to say, when we stick to God's clear Word we need not be afraid. We need not be afraid of those who desire to remain in darkness, nor be afraid of what attacks they might bring. We have Christ! We have His Gospel! We have His body and blood! The highest and best treasure in a world gone mad. Trust not in princes and their ever changing dictums and ideologies. Be bold, confident, and rest securely on the Word of the Lord which endures forever. For it is there that we are given real truth, real hope for the day, and real strength for tomorrow. Here we stand. We can do no other. All other ground is shifting sand and will come to naught when our Lord returns.

Our Lutheran church is about the glory of Christ crucified and raised for sinners, God's clear Word in the Bible, and the Holy Spirit guiding us by that Word and delivering the gifts to make us holy people - people set apart. In the world but not of the world. We live in daily repentance with faith in Christ and seek Him in the throne room of His church. If that makes us different than everyone else: GOOD. We should be. We don't worship Luther, our trust is in the One he trusted and was bold enough to proclaim - Jesus, the Lamb of God, who on the cross didst suffer.

Happy Reformation Day this month. Be bold. Be different. Be Lutheran. Repent and trust Christ. Be forgiven and live that way pointing to Jesus alone. Against all attacks and fears, He is our trusty shield and weapon - our Mighty Fortress.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



EXPLANATION OF LUTHER'S SEAL

The black cross in the center reminds us that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. The red heart reminds us of the love God has for us in sending Jesus to be our Savior. The red of the heart is the color of the blood of Christ, shed for us and for our salvation. The white rose helps us remember the work of the Holy Spirit, who makes us pure and holy in God's sight by bringing us to faith in Jesus and by helping us to live our lives for him. The sky blue background pictures the joy of the new life God gives to all who believe and trust in him. Finally, the golden ring outlining the seal reminds us of our eternal inheritance—a home in heaven where we will enjoy complete joy and happiness in our Savior's presence.

LIFE QUOTES

“God has put us in our roles as life-affirming Lutherans in this place at this time. We must continue despite the world’s resistance. We must lean on God because He will support us. We must remember He has the words of eternal life!” *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

Want to listen to good theology concerning current topics, the Bible, and Christ crucified for you? Check out *Issues, Etc.* on your computer or smartphone.

