

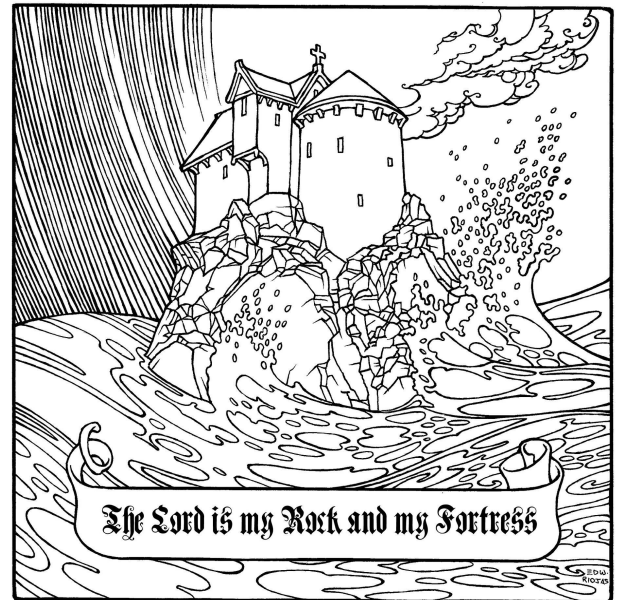
OCTOBER 2024

In October, we celebrate Reformation Day. One of Martin Luther's great hymns which we will sing that day contains this opening confession: A mighty fortress our God is, a trusty shield and weapon. To call God our fortress is to say He is the wall of protection, the place of refuge and safety who surrounds and holds steadfast even though the waters roar and foam all around (see Psalm 46 which Luther based his hymn upon). It is to say that those found within His walls have a sure rescue and hope against any enemy that rages to bring those walls down and plunder those who seek shelter inside.

But to have a Lord who grants safety within His walls doesn't mean that we simply hide away. We don't have to. We don't have to stay in our room because there is a bully outside. The hymn directs us to more. A trusty shield and weapon. Our Lord and His Word are tools for engaging with confidence that which is outside. No need to hide. That's what the old evil foe wants of us - to stay shut up and away from engaging with the world. But with the trusty shield and weapon of Jesus and His Word of truth we are well equipped. Bold, in fact, to make a good confession of the hope we have within us (1 Peter 3:15). The shield protects from attacks and the sword cuts to the heart of the truth - that we have a Savior whose kingdom does and will prevail therefore we will tremble not nor fear no ill no matter what lies or threats may surround us.

The Lord Jesus is our Fortress. He is our Shield and Weapon. Luther's hymn is a favorite throughout many Christian churches because it is a sort of battle cry. If you're not in the battle that means you've been overtaken. Unused tools gather dust, rust, and are forgotten about. We should let the history of the Reformation invigorate us once again to a bold claim of the truth of the Scriptures through which deliverance from sin and evil is made known to all mankind. Take up the tools which you've been given for battle and know that your Fortress Jesus stands firm. Say with St. Paul, *I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:17).*

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



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LIFE QUOTE

Having received God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His divine services to us in our congregations, we jointly put on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) in the public square, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. In so doing, we advocate for the sanctity of life from the moment of fertilization and pray that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our communities. *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



The Lutheran Hour is heard Locally on WLEW Bad Axe at 11:10am Sundays and WSAM 1440 Saginaw at 8:30 a.m. Sundays. OR listen to it anytime anywhere on the Lutheran hour APP on your phone. Download the Lutheran Hour Devotions app and click on Lutheran hour sermons. You can also find the Lutheran hour sermons on the Lutheran hour website at lhm.org. You can also dial 1-800-944-3450 and you will get the recorded instructions. Hit 3 then 1 and the whole Lutheran hour sermon will play just like you are receiving a phone call.



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.