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WELCOME TO



Lutheran Yes! is a way of experiencing confirmation that centers you in YES.

- God says YES to you as a beloved child.
- If you are baptized, your family said YES to making promises about raising you in the Christian faith.
- If you are not baptized, your grown-ups said YES to you being part of this confirmation program to learn more about baptism and the Christian faith.
- You are invited to say YES during the Affirmation of Baptism worship service that happens at the end of this confirmation program.
- You can say YES to being part of a larger community of Lutheran Christians in this congregation, your community, and all around the world.
- You will encounter God's YES on your faith journey throughout your whole life.

This Student Quest Book will be your guide through ten sessions where you'll learn about Lutheran theology and why it matters for growing in your Christian faith.

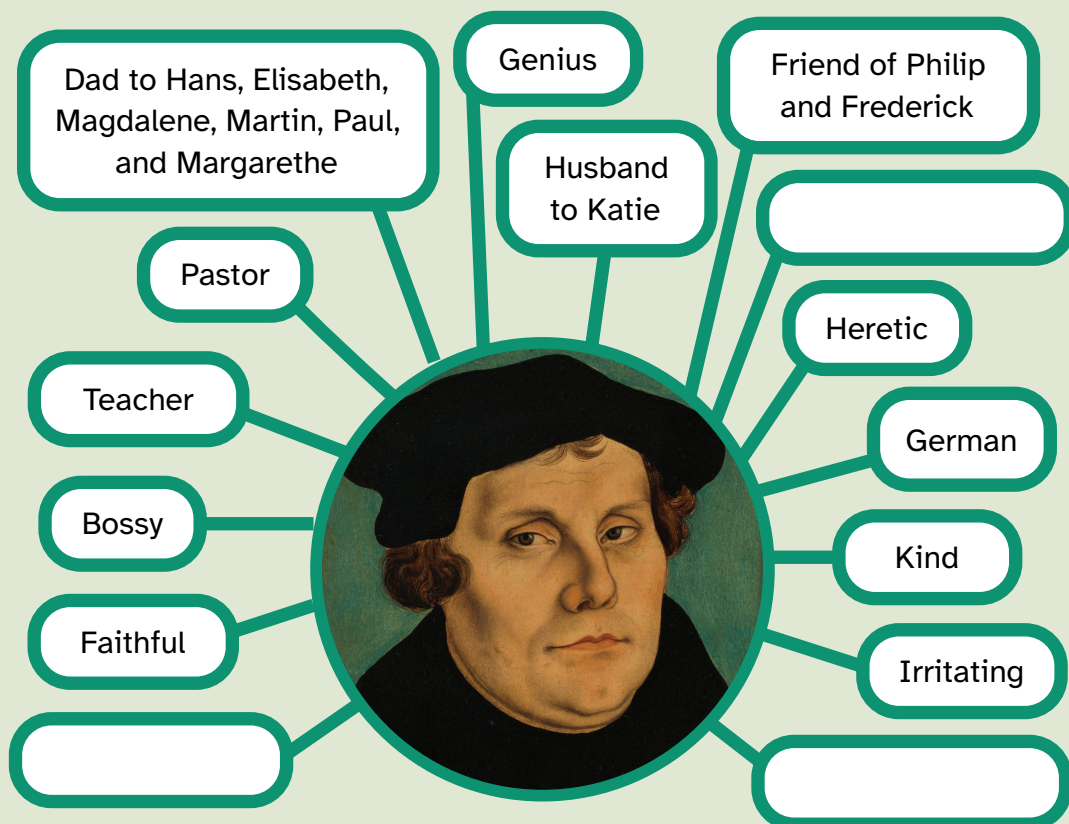
Each session features one or more Quests. Your small group leader will describe them and then you'll choose one to try. Use this book as you complete each Quest. It has places to write, sketch, and even cut out pages.

You'll also find helpful resources at the back—the 95 Theses that Martin Luther wrote and posted in 1517, Martin Luther's Small Catechism that he wrote in 1529, and the liturgy that is used during the Affirmation of Baptism service. As you begin this journey of learning about Lutheran worship, remember this: God always says YES to you!

UNIT 2 SESSION 1



WHO IS MARTIN LUTHER?



NOVEMBER 10, 1483–FEBRUARY 18, 1546

Martin Luther was also a person who

- spoke up when he saw the church acting in ways that scared and trapped people instead of encouraging and freeing them.
- recognized how God's liberating love arrives in the world through very ordinary things and people.
- put all his trust in the God whose gracious will for the world is revealed in Jesus Christ.
- never wanted a church named after him.

As you learn more about Martin Luther, come back to this page. Add more words to the "cloud" of people and titles and ideas that help describe who he was.

TRUE OR FALSE TRIVIA CHALLENGE: MARTIN LUTHER EDITION

FIRST, USE SCISSORS TO CUT OUT THE GREEN/RED TABS ON THE EDGE OF THE PAGE. YOU WILL USE THESE TO MARK WHETHER YOU THINK A STATEMENT IS WAHR (TRUE) OR FALSCH (FALSE).

THEN PLAY THE GAME! IN YOUR PAIR OR SMALL GROUP, READ EACH ITEM OUT LOUD (TAKE TURNS). AS EACH IS READ, VOTE WITH A THUMBS-UP FOR WAHR OR A THUMBS-DOWN FOR FALSCH.

AS YOU PLAY, KEEP TRACK OF WHICH VOTES WIN FOR EACH ITEM BY PLACING A 'WAHR' OR 'FALSCH' TAB IN THE BOX BESIDE THE STATEMENT. USE PAINTER'S TAPE TO KEEP TABS IN PLACE.

WHEN YOU'VE READ AND VOTED ON ALL 15 STATEMENTS, ASK YOUR LEADER TO PROVIDE THE CORRECT ANSWERS.

AS YOU LEARN THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT LUTHER, REARRANGE YOUR TABS AS NEEDED. THEN USE TAPE OR GLUE TO STICK THEM IN THE RIGHT PLACES.

FINALLY, WORK TOGETHER TO COMPLETE THE "CORRECT THE RECORD" ACTIVITY ON PAGE 10.

LEARN GERMAN
WAHR (VAHR) = TRUE
FALSCH (FALSH) = FALSE



Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

1

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther once accidentally stabbed himself in the leg with a sword. He nearly died from this wound. While he was recovering, he learned how to play a stringed instrument called a lute.

WAHR/FALSCH

2

During his life, Luther was a student, a monk, a priest, a professor, an outlaw, and a father of six children.

3

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther was made a saint in 1952.

WAHR/FALSCH

4

Martin Luther was usually clean-shaven, but he had a beard for a little while around 1522.

5

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther switched from being a Methodist to being a Lutheran in 1545.

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

Wahr

Falsch

6

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther was going to become a lawyer, but he got so scared by an earthquake one day that he vowed to become a monk instead.

WAHR/FALSCH

7

Martin Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into Spanish.

8

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism, the Medium Catechism, and the Large Catechism.

WAHR/FALSCH

9

One of Martin Luther's powerful friends and benefactors was a man called Frederick the Wise.

10

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther once encouraged his friend Philip to "sin boldly."

11

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther once challenged the pope to a duel.

WAHR/FALSCH

12

Martin Luther's wife, Katharina, was once a nun.

13

WAHR/FALSCH

Martin Luther never traveled outside of Germany.

WAHR/FALSCH

14

Martin Luther had a dog.

15

WAHR/FALSCH

It's estimated that Martin Luther was responsible for writing about a third of all the books published in German in the first half of the 16th century.

CORRECT THE RECORD

REWRITE THE SEVEN FALSE STATEMENTS IN THE TRIVIA CHALLENGE TO MAKE THEM TRUE:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Which fact about Martin Luther do you think you'll remember in a week? Write it down here:

Which fact surprised you the most?

Which fact about Martin Luther is most similar to you?

Which "false" fact do you wish was actually true? Why?

SHOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Martin Luther wrote thousands of words, trying to explain and defend his ideas about God. These included books, letters, and songs. He also used images to show what he believed. In 1530, Luther wrote a letter to his friend Lazarus Spengler. In it, he explained the symbols in the seal he had designed to mark the title pages of his books.



HERE ARE FIVE ELEMENTS OF HIS SEAL THAT LUTHER POINTED OUT IN HIS LETTER:

A **black cross** at the center of everything, because “faith in the Crucified One” is the most important thing.

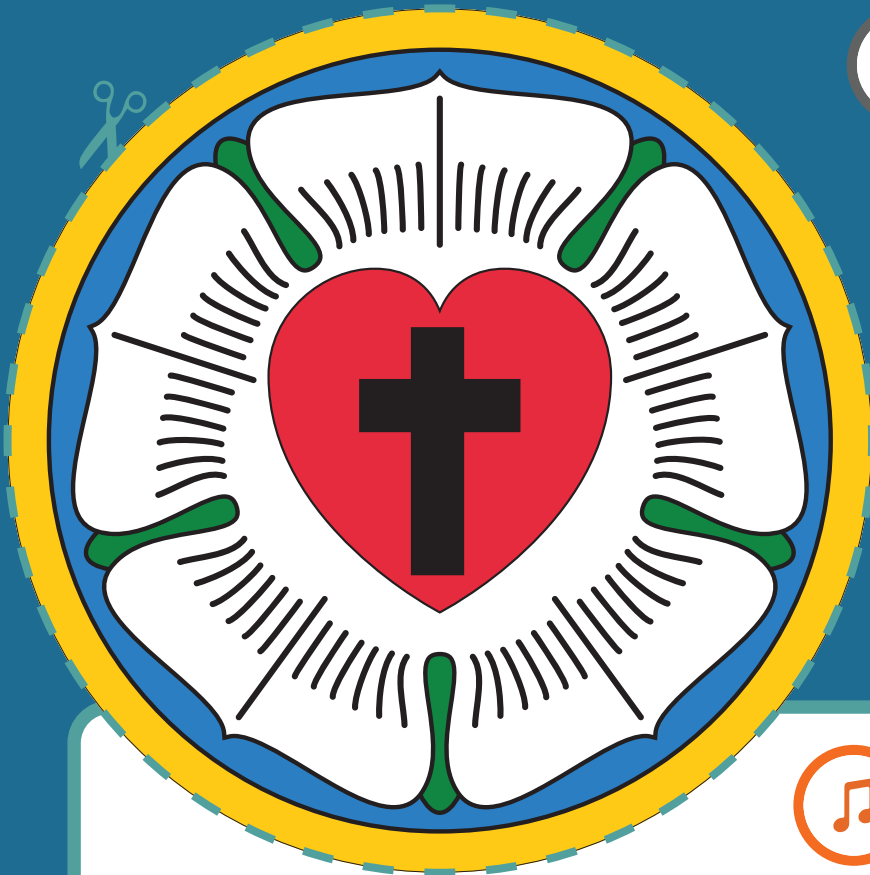
A **red, living heart**, because the cross of Christ doesn’t kill us, but makes us alive.

A **bright white rose**, which surrounds and comforts the faithful heart with a beautiful peace that is “not as the world gives.” The seal came to be known as the “Luther Rose” because of this image.

A **sky-blue field**—the color of hope—that symbolizes God’s promised future.

All this surrounded by an endless **golden ring** because, Luther wrote, “Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy, and better than any possessions.”

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN



CONSIDER HOW YOU COULD USE IMAGES AND COLORS TO DEPICT SOME IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF YOUR FAITH.

- What symbol or idea feels central to your faith?
- How can you represent your experience of God's love? What does it feel/look like?
- Which "traditional" Christian symbols (such as the cross, a dove, water, bread and wine) will you use, if any? You can also use Elements of Worship symbols from Unit 1.
- How does your faith connect you with others, with God, and with the rest of the world? How will you show this?

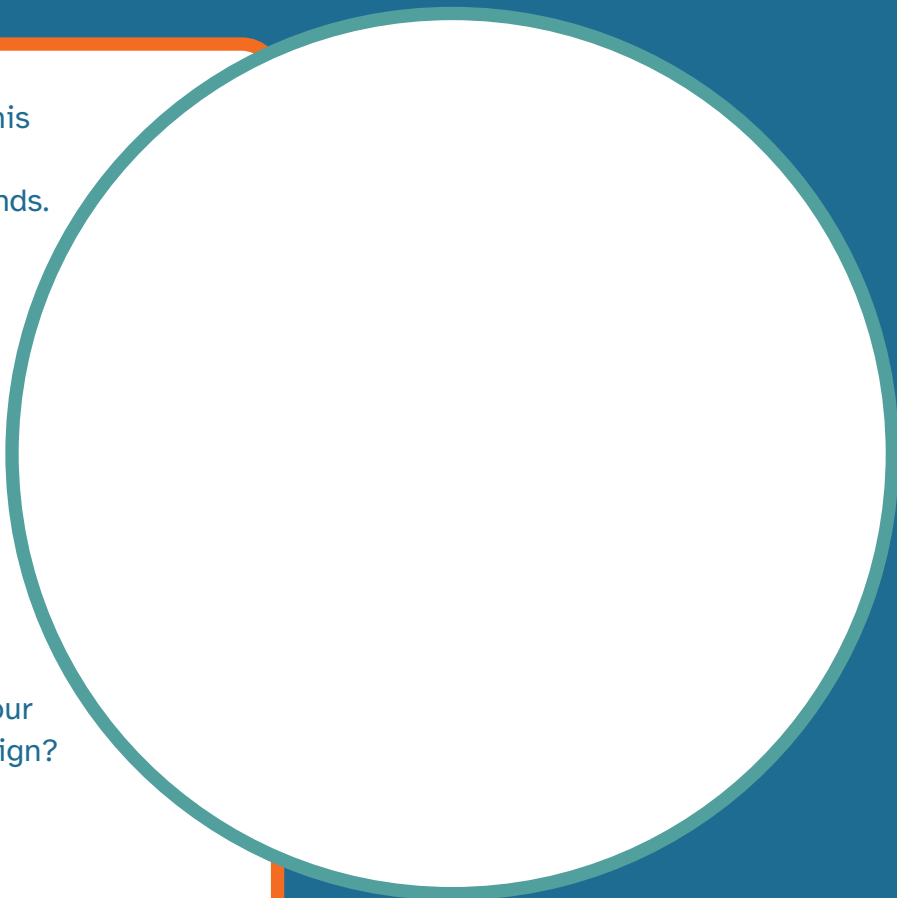
USE THIS TEMPLATE TO WRITE, SKETCH, OR DOODLE SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL “SEAL.” ONCE YOU HAVE A DRAFT YOU LIKE, USE ART SUPPLIES TO CREATE A FINISHED VERSION.

Martin Luther shared his seal in his books and explained it to his friends.

Where can you display your work?

Who can you share it with?

Why did you choose your symbol, color, and design?



Martin Luther's seal first appeared on some of his printed writings in the 1520s. It was in black and white and had his initials on either side.

As Luther got more famous and as his books found a wider audience, printers started to include colored versions of the Luther Rose. Each one had to be painted by hand!

In the 500 years since Luther put his theology into picture form, his seal has been used to decorate everything from church architecture and stained-glass windows to tattoos and bumper stickers.



OLD WORDS, NEW LANGUAGE

One of Martin Luther's most amazing and enduring accomplishments was translating the Bible from its original languages into German. He wasn't the first person to attempt this project. But Luther's version was the first to express the Bible's ancient stories, words, and ideas in the language that regular German people used to think, dream, and speak to each other. Luther's work as a translator and interpreter unlocked the Bible's riches for everybody who could read.



IN THIS QUEST, YOU GET TO TRY DOING WHAT LUTHER DID. YOUR CHALLENGE IS TO TRANSLATE A LINE OR TWO OF PSALM 46 FROM "KING JAMES ENGLISH" INTO LANGUAGE THAT PEOPLE YOUR AGE, TODAY, CAN UNDERSTAND. YOUR LEADER WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A COPY OF THE PSALM.

The King James Version of the Bible was published in 1611—about 90 years after Luther started his work translating the New Testament into German. Many English-speaking Christians love this version because of how it sounds when read aloud.

Martin Luther based his famous hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" on the images and the flow of Psalm 46. Read it in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; it's hymn 503.

STEP 1

Read the whole thing.

It may help to read the psalm out loud. Circle words you don't understand. Underline the ones that seem important or powerful. Work to understand what the writer is trying to communicate. Think about how that message connects with you. Choose one word that seems important and write it here.

STEP 2

Pick a line you like.

No need to tackle the whole psalm in one go. Choose a sentence or part of a sentence to focus on. Cut out the line you want to translate. Tape it here.

STEP 3

Try swapping out some words.

Try substituting simpler or more familiar words. It may not take many changes to make the sentence easier to understand and relate to. Keep reading out loud as you go. What words are you changing? Write them here.

STEP 4

Write out the whole line in the new language.

**CONGRATULATIONS—YOU'RE A
BIBLE TRANSLATOR!
SHARE YOUR INTERPRETATION
WITH A FRIEND OR YOUR LEADER.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The books of the Old Testament were originally written in Hebrew, with some portions written in Aramaic. The New Testament books and letters were mostly written in Greek, along with some Aramaic. In order to make his Bible translation, Luther spent lots of time studying these ancient languages.