

colaborate
LUTHERAN
Student Handbook

Unit 2

Lutheran History & Catechism

Sampler

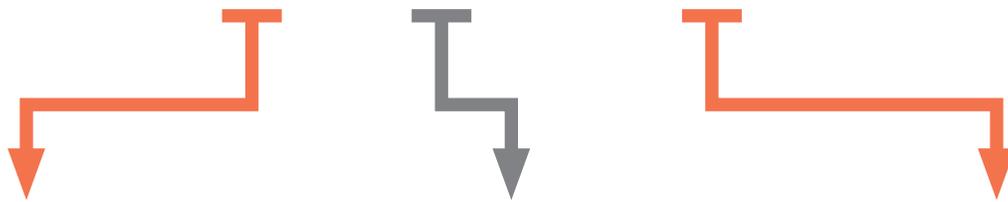
SPARK
HOUSE

colaborate

Student Handbook

The centerpiece of the Colaborate Lutheran confirmation curriculum is the student handbook. Each handbook contains fifteen lessons with each lesson working through four pages of handbook content. The Colaborate handbook guides students through a process of discovery with intriguing questions, in-depth information, and punchy graphics. Each page of the handbook serves a specific purpose that pulls students into the content.

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FRAMING THE PROBLEM

An opening infographic sets up the tension for the lesson, explicitly centering on student assumptions, biases, even disinterest. Pushing the problem: A short animated video heightens the tension through hyperbole, stereotypes, and misinformation. It is intentionally—and age-appropriately—provocative to build interest and get students thinking about the topic.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The center spread of the lesson equips students to work through the tension created on page one. It features an infographic that presents content in a memorable, visually powerful way, incorporating Bible passages, catechism material, and Lutheran history to help give students a stronger sense of the theology and doctrine behind each lesson. Students are invited to interact with the content by drawing, asking and answering questions, and sharing their ideas with a partner or the group.

PROJECT AND CLOSING

The final page of each lesson solidifies the concepts through two activities—an individual writing activity and a more active group project. No pipe cleaners? No problem. Every project in colaborate can be done with materials you have on hand—paper, pencils, tape, scissors. You'd be surprised how much stuff you can create with just these simple supplies. These activities give students opportunities to articulate what they've discovered, share their thoughts with others, and engage with the broader church community.

Videos

The animated colaborate videos aren't meant to stand alone. They don't give answers and they won't guide your class discussion. In fact, they might leave you scratching your head a bit. And that's fantastic. These short videos use humor, exaggeration, and assumptions to tease out the problem statement of the lesson. They are intentionally a bit provocative (and age-appropriate!) in order to maximize the effects of problem-based learning.

Martin Luther

The man behind the movement

There are 2.2 billion Christians in the world, and about 70 million of them are Lutheran . . . but what does it mean to be “Lutheran”? Are Lutherans followers of Jesus, or of Martin Luther, or both? Who was Martin Luther, and what was he trying to accomplish?

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

COLOR ME LUTHERAN

John Frederick of Saxony had this seal designed for Martin Luther in 1530. It soon became known as the Luther Rose and has been a symbol for Lutherans around the world. Go ahead, color it in!

BLACK

Crucifixion and Salvation.

RED

The heart’s natural color, not ruined by the cross.

WHITE

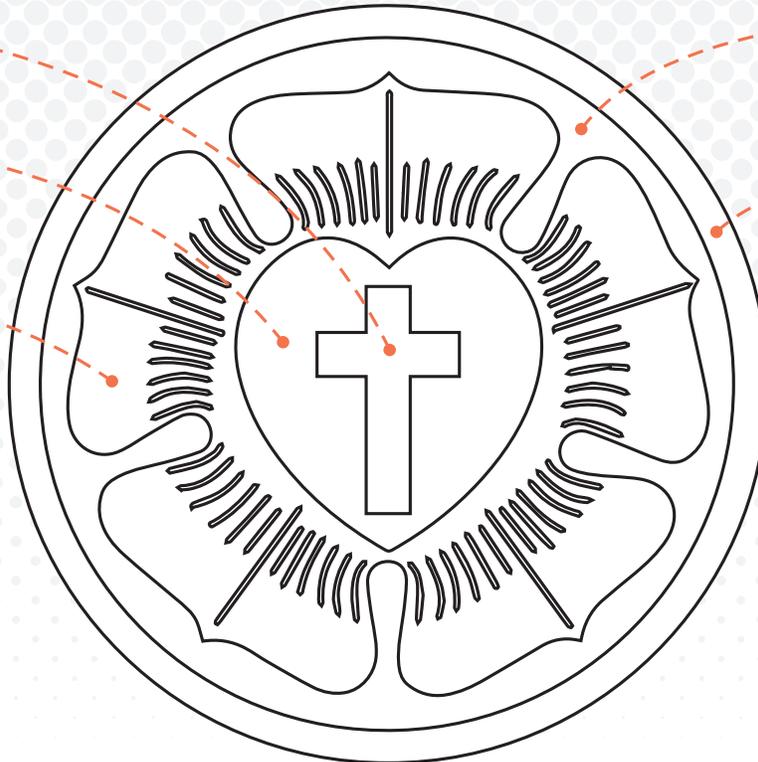
Faith gives joy, comfort, and peace.

BLUE

Joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly future joy.

GOLD

The joy of heaven is valuable and has no end.



Martin Luther

(1483–1546) was a German monk, priest, and leader in the Protestant Reformation of the church.

Religious Affiliation

Check all that apply:

- Christian
- Protestant
- Lutheran
- Disciple
- Jesus Follower
- Believer

Martin or Martin?

People sometimes confuse Martin Luther, the church reformer, with Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader. Think you know the difference? For each item below, draw a line to the Martin you think it describes.



Luther

- Preached about nonviolence
- Called the pope the Antichrist
- Won the Nobel Peace Prize
- Catholic
- Gave the “I Have a Dream” speech
- Translated the Bible into German
- Became a pastor in his twenties



MLK

If you had a symbol representing what’s important to you, what would it look like?

Martin Luther might be the founder of the Lutheran Church, but that doesn’t mean he always felt confident about his faith. He had plenty of struggles, doubts, and questions. So why are we named for such a complicated guy?

Martin Luther: Conflict and Credo

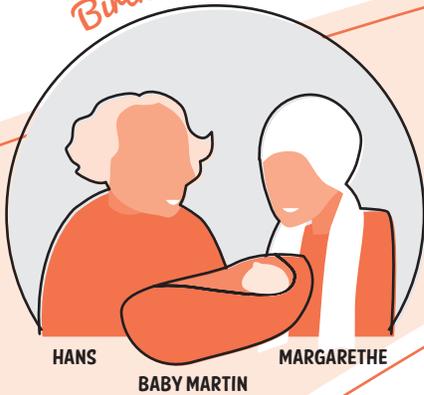
Martin Luther's vision of reform for the Catholic Church came out of his own struggle with sin and guilt.

What's in a name?

List different names you go by.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Birth, 1483



Enters University, 1507



Monk Decision, 1509



Conflict, 1505-1512



Luther's early years as a monk and a priest were marked by intense conflict.

He wrestled with the nature of sin, grace, and salvation, and worried he could never be good enough for God. He also pushed back at the problems he saw in the Catholic Church, like the selling of indulgences.

LUTHER SAYS

About this time in his life, Luther wrote: "I lost touch with Christ the Savior and Comforter, and made of him the jailer and hangman of my poor soul."

LUTHER SAYS

"[Not only are we] the freest of all men, but also priests for ever, a dignity far higher than kingship, because by that priesthood we are worthy to appear before God, to pray for others, and to teach one another mutually the things which are of God." —"Freedom of a Christian," November 1520

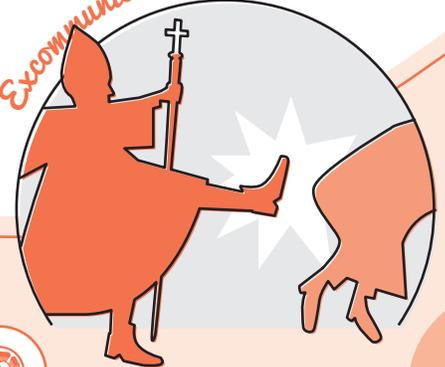
95 Theses, 1517



LUTHER SAYS

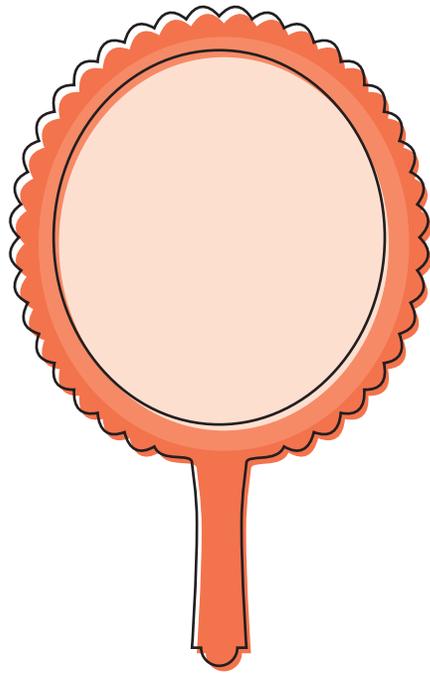
Thesis #27: "They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory."

Excommunication, 1520



LUTHER SAYS

"It is certain that man must utterly despair of his own inability before he is prepared to receive the grace of Christ." —"The Heidelberg Disputation"



What do you want to be known for?

Maries Katharina von Bora, 1525

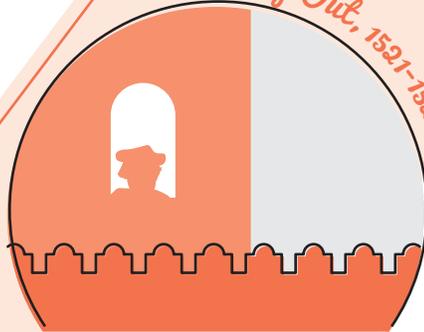


LUTHER SAYS

August 1521: In a letter to his fellow professor Philip Melanchthon, Luther writes, “Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.”

It was actually Luther’s opponents who dubbed his followers “Lutherans,” and it was meant as an insult!

Hiding Out, 1521-1522



Reforming the Church, 1526-1530



At the Diet of Worms, Luther was asked to recant his teachings, but he didn’t. Instead, he clung to his **credo**—a Latin word meaning “I believe”—which became the foundation of what would eventually become the Lutheran Church.

HERE I STAND.



HERETIC!

RECONT!

SINNER!

LUTHER SAYS

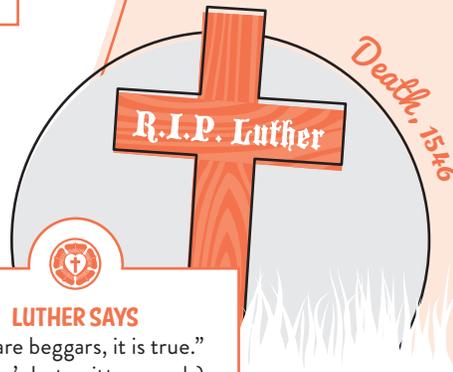
Luther, at Diet of Worms: “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason. . . I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

LUTHER SAYS

“Faith is a living, bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it.” —“Introduction to St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

Credo, 1520-1522

Death, 1546



LUTHER SAYS

“We are beggars, it is true.” (Luther’s last written words).

Luther famously had a profound spiritual “a-ha” moment while “on the cloaca”—more commonly known as a toilet. What’s the biggest a-ha moment in your faith journey so far? Write it down in the bubble next to the outhouse.



Faith That's Always Reforming

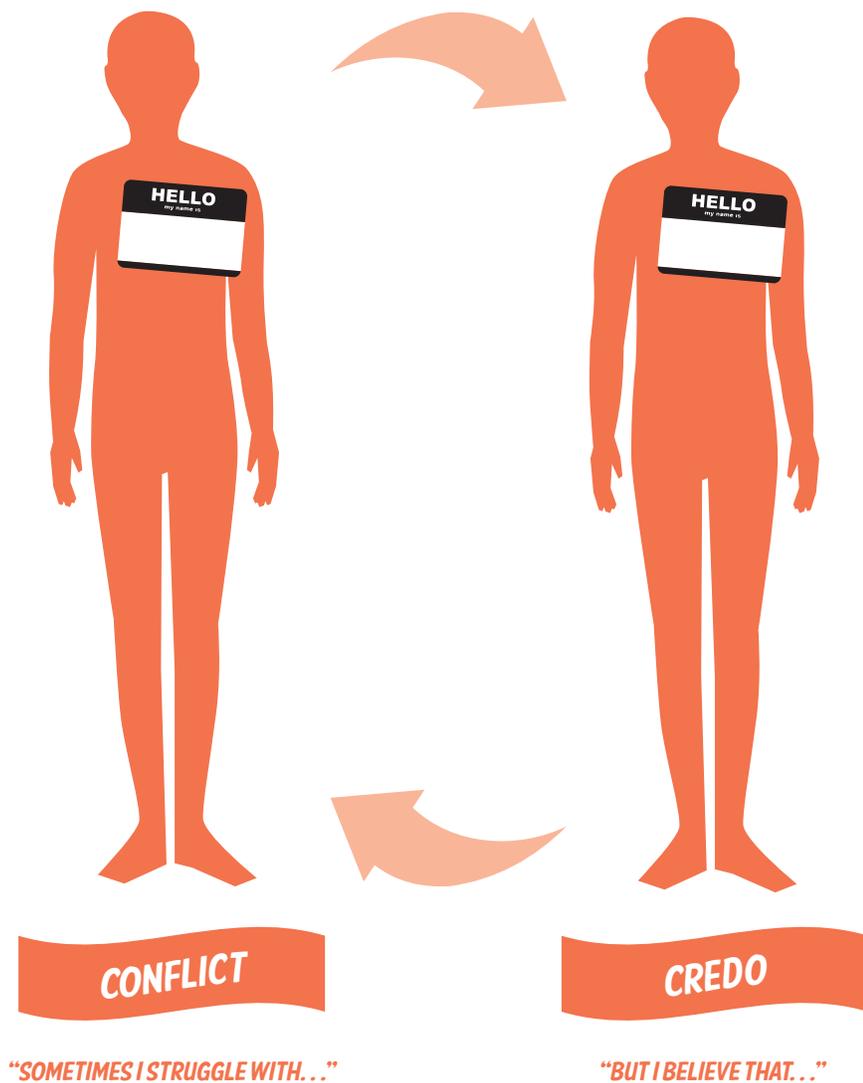
Every day our faith is re-formed when we acknowledge the sin that lives within us and “a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever” (Luther’s Small Catechism).

Option 1: The Cycle of Faith

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor:

“You do not have your faith once and for all. The faith that you will confess today with all your hearts needs to be regained tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, indeed, every day anew.” —The Collected Sermons

Fill in the lines below with your own conflict and credo.



1.

2.

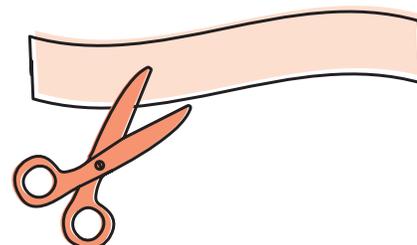
1.

2.

Option 2: Conflict/Credo Möbius Scarf

Supplies: butcher or other large-format paper, markers, tape, stapler

1. Cut a long, thin strip of butcher paper, at least 48 inches x 6 inches.



2. Write “Conflict” and “Credo” on opposite sides of the strip.



3. Twist paper and tape ends together. Draw a line running the length of the loop to show that the strip is infinite. Bonus: Now you have a sweet scarf!



1. Think

2. Share

3. Discuss

What's one reason a person might call themselves a Lutheran today?



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IT'S NIFTY!
IT'S
LUTHERAN!**



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MORE!**

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