

Christian Education Resources

Lutheran Studies

1. Welcome to Project Wittenberg!

Project Wittenberg is home to works by and about Martin Luther and other Lutherans. Here you will find all manner of texts from short quotations to commentaries, hymns to statements of faith, theological treatises to biographies, and links to other places where words and images from the history of Lutheranism live.

Project Wittenberg is the first step towards an international electronic library of Lutheranism. Project Wittenberg documents are available in several places on the internet. This site mirrors texts from Project Wittenberg's official website, www.ProjectWittenberg.org. For the latest versions of our texts, many of which are still being assembled and refined, drop in at [Project Wittenberg's Electronic Lutheran Web](#).

Click on this Link...

[Http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-home.html](http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-home.html)

2. Reformation Background (From Sundays in March Bible Study in 2008

See table below: **Faith, Practice and History**

Lutheran Reformation Timeline	Luther's and Contemporary Events	Personal and Contemporary Beliefs	Lutheran Beliefs
1505	Enters Monastery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther struggled during this time with how he could be in a proper relationship with God. Theology he learned that God was a strict judge and Christ was no help because he was a judge too Genuine repentance was a critical issue for Luther personally 	
1507	Ordained a Priest		
1512	Doctor of Theology Degree		
1515	Elected district Vicar over 10 Monasteries		
1517	Indulgence Campaign Begins in region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indulgences were a common spiritual practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ God forgave guilt & freed the penitent sinner from eternal punishment (mortal sin) ◆ But the sinner was still liable for any temporal punishment (venal sin) The current indulgence campaign claimed complete forgiveness for both 	Luther preached against this and protested to his Bishop and posted his 95 theses for academic debate
1518	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ponders the meaning of Romans 1:17 Meeting with his Cardinal, Luther denies the pope had the authority to authorize indulgences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gradual shift in insight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Righteousness of God ◆ Through which he punishes the unrighteous sinner To God mercifully justifies the person of faith 	Luther's central conviction of justification by grace through faith
1519	Ten-day debate with John Eck	Pope and councils could err	Scripture is the highest authority

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1520	Published 3 major treatises	Stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reception of both Eucharistic bread and wine to the laity ◆ Rejection of the Eucharist as a sacrifice offered to God ◆ An end to private masses 	
1521	Luther Meets with Emperor Charles V at the Worms Germany (Diet of Worms) conducting various secular affairs	Summoned for two Reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Acknowledge his own books printed in his name ◆ Whether he wished to affirm or retract anything in them 	"Unless I am convinced by the Testimony of 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 for right to against conscience. May God help me, Amen"
1521 April	Emperor issues the Edict of Worms	Luther an <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Obstinate Schismatic and manifest heretic ◆ Who was to be taken prisoner ◆ And delivered to the emperor 	
1529	Small Catechism		A short work that was to educate the laity in the fundamentals of the Christian Faith.
1529	Large Catechism		Though covering the same chief parts of Christian doctrine as the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism is really a series of reedited sermons that Luther preached.
1530	Diet Of Augsburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effort to restore church unity • Augsburg Confession • 	Often viewed as the chief Lutheran Confession; it was presented by the Lutherans to Emperor Charles V at the imperial diet of Augsburg as a statement of the chief articles of the Christian faith as understood by Lutherans; also contained here is a

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			listing of abuses that the Lutherans had corrected.
1531	Apology of the Augsburg Confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Eck wrote the Catholic Confutation of the Augsburg Confession and the emperor demanded that all political leaders sign it • Outlook for reform looked bleak 	After the Roman theologians had condemned many of the teachings of the Augsburg Confession (AC), Melancthon authored this lengthy defense of AC. Rightly considered a Christian classic.
1531 - 1537	Smalcald Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Reform Minded Princes form Schmalcald League • Political Maneuvering between the German princes and Austrian emperor kept the reform movement alive 	Articles of faith intended by Luther to be an ecumenical platform for an upcoming ecumenical council. Stated what the Lutherans could not compromise and why.
1547	Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope		Was intended to serve as a supplement to the Augsburg Confession, giving the Lutheran position on the Pope.
1577	Formula of Concord		A restatement of some teachings in the Augsburg Confession over which Lutherans had become divided. The Solid Declaration is the unabridged version. The Epitome an abridged version intended for congregations to study. Over 8,100 pastors and theologians signed it, as well as over 50 government leaders.

Bible Study Resources

1. Approaches To Reading the Bible

The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in

order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

<http://www.bookoffaith.org/default.aspx>

Study Text

Opening the Book of Faith by Diane Jacobson, Mark Allen Powell, Stanley N. Olson

How Can the Bible Be Studied?

(insert)Word Pro - Read the Bible Approach Summary.pdf

2. Read the Bible in a Year

Want to accept a personal challenge to read the bible? This table from the ELCA Website offers a day-by-day plan to accomplish that goal. Why not start a small group activity to meet and discuss your readings and keep the ball rolling? *Click on the link below.*

<Http://archive.elca.org/bible/oneyear/index.html>

3. Pastor's recommended sites

The site below is a link to all kinds of study resources, pictures, commentaries, etc.

<http://eastonsbibledictionary.com/>

One of the Bible links I use quite often is:

www.biblegateway.com

It has access to a large number of translations, even in foreign languages, and includes the contemporary paraphrase-- Eugene Peterson's "The Message".

4. **Other Website Resources**

- CrossMarks Christian Resources provides outstanding Bible Study materials and other Christian resources which are appropriate for small group or personal use.

<http://www.crossmarks.com/>

- Many resources for bible lookup including paralell bible translations

<Http://bible.crosswalk.com/>

- Virginia Synod Bible Study Email sign up

<http://vasynod.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/1274.htm>