

THE STORY

Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany in 1483. The Gospel had been forgotten and the Church taught that people were saved by doing good works to get right with God. Luther believed that God was an angry judge, waiting to punish him for his sins.

Caught in a thunderstorm one day, he vowed to become a monk if he did not die. He became a strictly obedient monk, so that God would be pleased with him, but his sins continued to worry him.

He became a priest, and a Doctor of Theology, and studied and taught what was in the Bible. Through this study, he came to realise that God does not save us by anything that we might do, but through faith in Jesus as our Saviour. This good news changed Luther's life.

Martin Luther wanted to reform the Church. He wanted to change the Church's teachings which did not agree with the Bible. On 31 October 1517, he put up 95 statements about false teachings and practices in the Church on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg. Luther refused to take back what he had written, unless he was shown from the Bible that he was wrong. He was even put out of the Church because of what he said.

Martin Luther went into hiding when he was declared an outlaw. There he translated the Bible into German so that people could read God's Word for themselves. Until then, Bibles were written by hand, in Latin, and special permission was needed to read them. He also wrote a catechism which is still used today for teaching the truths in the Bible.

Luther married a former nun, Katherine von Bora, and they had six children. Luther died at Eisleben in 1546. The Reformation spread through much of Europe, and Luther's teachings also strongly influenced reformers in England and Scotland.

FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture, and the children's activities. Read more about Martin Luther in an encyclopaedia or history book or use the internet.
- Use these resources to find out about the life and work of other reformers in the church, such as John Hus, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley.
- Luther wrote the Small Catechism to assist the 'head of the household' in teaching the Christian faith the people in the house. Revise parts that have been taught/learnt through the year.
- Pray Luther's Morning Prayer at breakfast and his Evening Prayer at bedtime.
- Talk about the importance of regular Bible reading for Christian growth. Guides are available through the Bible Society.



PRAYER

Dear Lord, You have given us Your Word to guide and teach us. Help us to hear, read, learn and believe Your Word, so that we may always be sure of Your love and of Your free gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



MARTIN LUTHER

Luther's Rose Symbol

Colour Luther's badge in the special colours.

The **cross** is **black** to show that Jesus had to die for our sin.

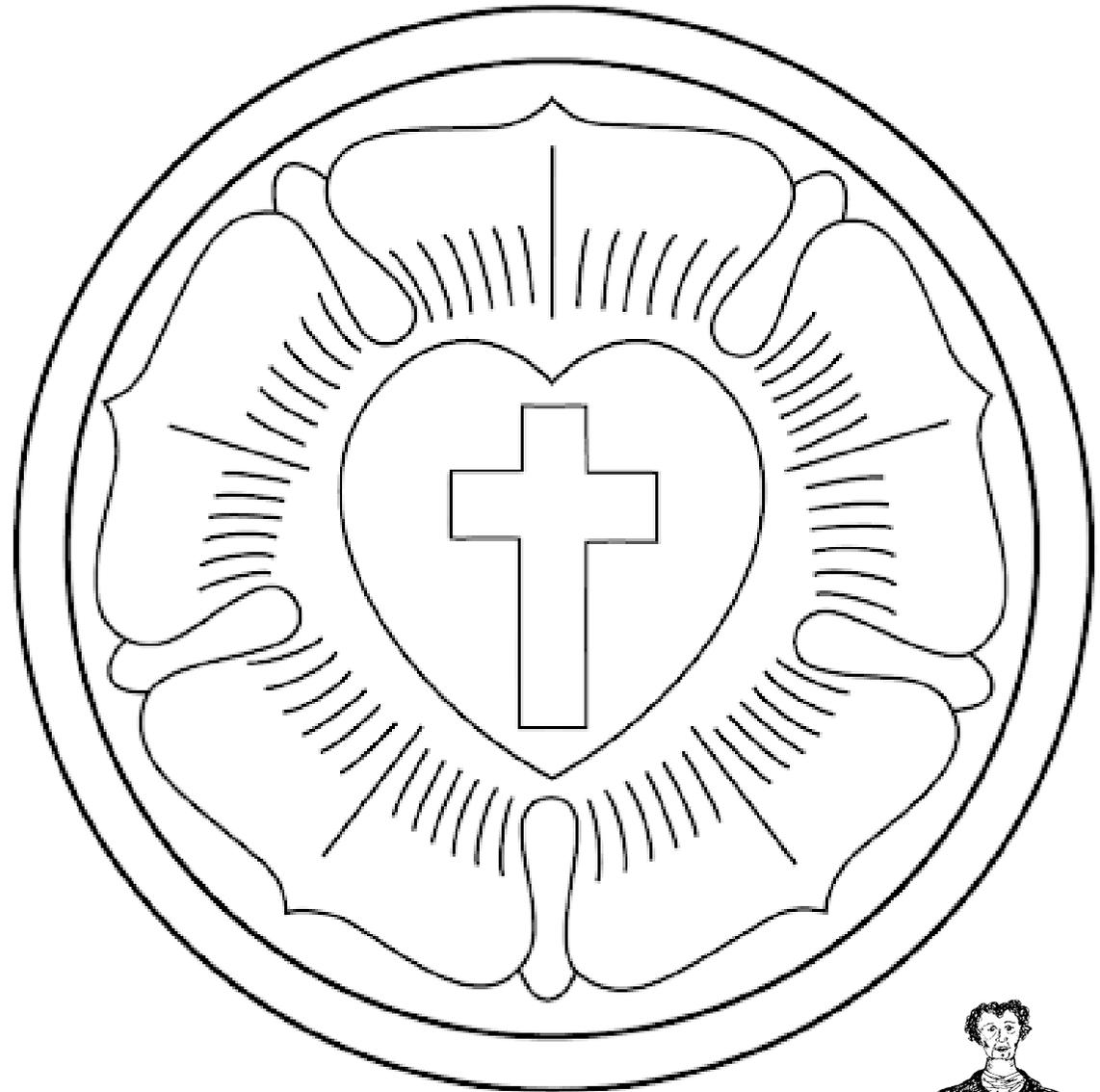
The **heart** is **red**, for the blood of Jesus that was shed.

The **rose** is **white** for the pure holy joy we have in Jesus.

The **background** is **blue** to show that we have eternal life in heaven.

The **ring** is **gold** because God and His love never ends.

Each colour helps us
to remember something
about our faith.



The Bible tells me so

Martin Luther told us that the Bible is God's book for us. It tells us how much God loves us. It tells us all the wonderful things God has done for us.

Sing the hymn [LH 609]:

Jesus loves me! This I know for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong.

They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

BIBLE VERSE
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.
JOHN 3:16



Luther's Rose Symbol

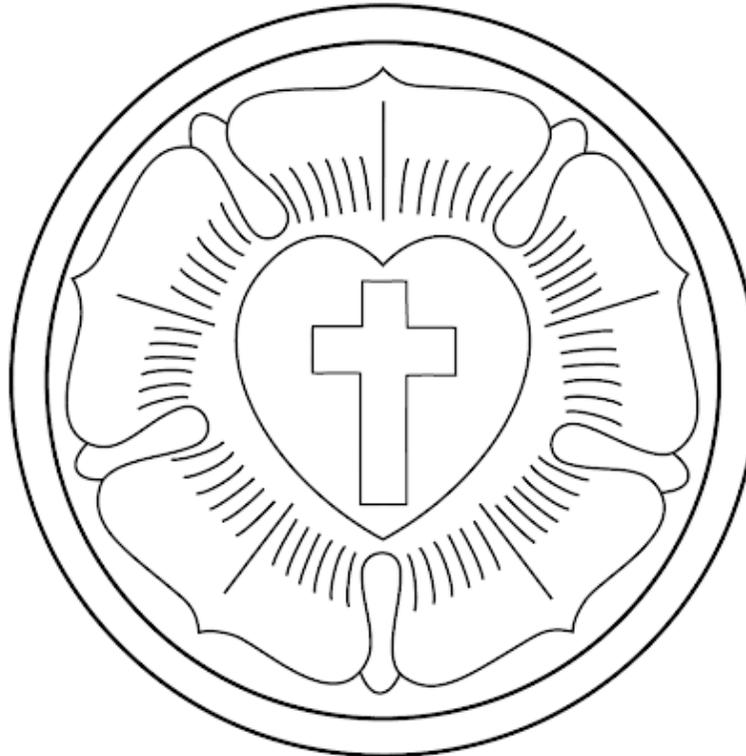
The _____ is black to show that Jesus had to die for our sin.

The _____ is red, for the blood of Jesus that was shed.

The _____ is white for the pure holy joy we have in Jesus.

The _____ is blue to show that we have eternal life in heaven.

The _____ is gold because God and His love never ends.

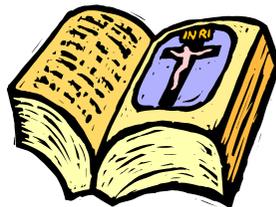


Colour Luther's badge in the special colours. Each colour helps us to remember something about our faith.

[Missing words] cross heart rose background ring

What was the Good News that Luther discovered in the Bible?

Shade in the letters **K**, **M** and **P** to read this important truth.



G	O	D	K	M	L	O	V	E	S	K	P	M	U	S	P	K
M	H	E	P	K	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	S	M	U	S	M
A	L	L	M	P	O	U	R	K	P	M	S	I	N	S	K	P
P	B	E	C	A	U	S	E	M	O	F	K	J	E	S	U	S

October 31 was the day on which Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to a church door. This is the day chosen for the festival of the Reformation. November 1 is All Saints Day, on which we remember all the men and women who have been faithful followers of Christ.



BIBLE VERSE
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.
 JOHN 3:16

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you, heavenly Father, through Your dear Son Jesus Christ, that You have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask You to keep me this day, too, from all sin and evil, so that in all my thoughts, words and deeds I may please You. In Your hands I place my body and soul and all that is mine. Let Your holy angel be with me, so that the evil one may have no power over me. Amen.



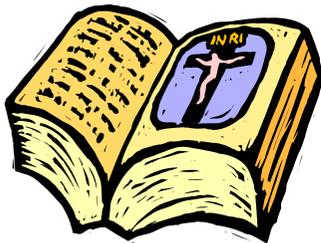
Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, heavenly Father, through Your dear Son Jesus Christ, that You have graciously protected me today. I ask You to forgive all my sins and the wrong which I have done. And graciously keep me this night. In Your hands I place my body and soul and all that is mine. Let Your holy angel be with me, so that the evil one may have no power over me. Amen.



Luther's Small Catechism

After Martin Luther found the good news in the Bible, he spent his life teaching people what he had found. We still have and use the Catechism he wrote to help parents teach their children the most important things in the Bible. A Catechism is a Question-and-Answer book.



The main topics are:

The Ten Commandments — God's laws show us that we are sinners and that we need a Saviour.

The Apostles' Creed — This is a statement of what God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, have done for us, and how we respond to His work.

The Lord's Prayer — The prayer Jesus taught us is a guide for all our praying; it is the prayer of people who have been saved and are able to speak to God as their Father. It teaches us to pray not just for what we want, but for what God wants.

The Sacraments — God comes to His people in special ways.

God works through physical things (water in Baptism, and bread and wine in Holy Communion) through the power of His Word.



The Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church uses the Bible and teaches about Jesus in the same way that Martin Luther did. There are Lutherans in nearly every country of the world. This is the symbol for the Lutheran Church in Australia.

The circle shows God is never-ending; it reminds us of the world; and is a symbol of the unity of the Church.

The cross is the sign of our salvation in Jesus. It is leading us forward.

Flames remind us of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; three flames remind us of the

Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The stars of the Southern Cross are on the flag of Australia, and tie all the symbols to Australia.



Put these words in the right places.

October
Martin Luther
John Tetzl
forgiveness
nailed
church

A man called

preached indulgences.

People thought they could buy

was angry.

He _____ 95
theses about it on the door of

the _____ at
Wittenburg, on 31st

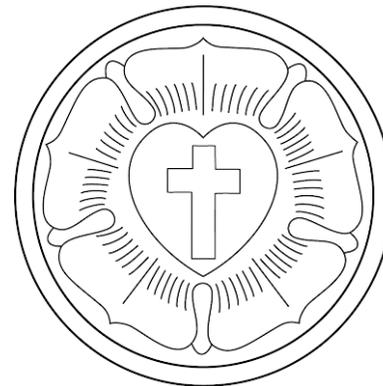
_____, 1517.

MARTIN LUTHER'S COAT OF ARMS

In 1521 the emperor of Germany placed Martin Luther under the ban for preaching the Gospel. In order to protect Luther the elector of Saxony, Frederick the Wise, disguised him as a knight and hid him at Wartburg Castle (where he translated the New Testament into German). As part of the disguise Luther was given a coat of arms. That coat of arms is a symbolic portrayal of the Gospel message.



The symbolism is this: When Christ, who took my sins upon Himself on the cross (the black cross), dwells in my sinful heart (the red heart), then I dwell in Christ and am clothed in His righteousness (the white rose), and heaven (the blue background) and eternal life (the gold ring) is mine through faith in Him.



Colour the coat of arms.

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