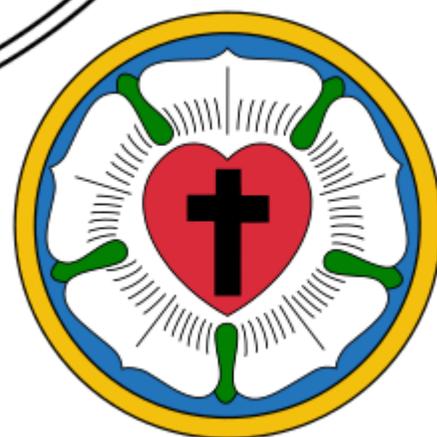


# Reformation Day - The Luther Rose



*Greetings* Trinity Family:

**This year, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday (October 25) differently** (you're not surprised, are you?!) Our previous festive gathering for brats and beer will need to be on hold until 2021. For 2020, we have developed a project to do at home. The Luther Rose was designed for Martin Luther in 1530, and is widely recognized as a symbol of our Lutheran faith. Luther wrote an interpretation, which was an expression of his theology and faith. Please color the pattern above using markers, crayons, paints, etc. - or use it as a pattern to create a dimensional piece of art. Work on this with your loved ones, and discuss the meaning of each part of the symbol and its color. When finished, cut out the circle, and return to Trinity by mail or drop-off. We will display as a group project.

**For almost 500 years**, this symbol has represented our Lutheran faith and heritage. May it continue for another 500!



## From Martin Luther:

**Grace and peace from the Lord.** As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology.

**The first should be a black cross in a heart**, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who believes from the heart will be "justified" (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive.

**"The just shall live by faith"** (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

**Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field**, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

**And around this field is a golden ring**, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my *compendium theologiae* [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.