

Living Faith



October, 2012

Dear Friends,

Did you know that Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays? It has gone through many changes. It was originally a Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in), marking the end of harvest and the beginning of the new year (November 1st). The druids believed that ghosts and spirits roamed the earth at this time, and they lit bonfires as protection.

When the Romans took over the Celtic lands, they adapted the day to honor their own deities. One of these, Pomona, was the goddess of fruit and trees and was represented by an apple. This may be why we bob for apples at Halloween parties today

Eventually, the Roman Catholic Church adapted the day as All Hallows' Eve. It was the night before All Saints Day, the day they honored saints who did not have a specific feast day of their own. The name gradually changed to Halloween.

The tradition of trick-or-treating dates to All Souls' Days parades in England. Villagers gave poor people "soul cakes" in return for prayers for their dead relatives.

In 1920s America, kids began going trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. By this time, Halloween lost its religious meaning and became a holiday where people could wear costumes and become, for one night, something fantastical. It also became an inexpensive way for communities to celebrate together

October 31 is an important day in our church too. It is the day we celebrate the birth of the Lutheran Church. We call it Reformation Day. It is anniversary of the night that Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the Door of the church in Wittenburg. It was no accident that Luther chose this night to post his letter

As you celebrate Reformation Day, encourage your kids to look around the church. Talk about what you see. Is there a picture of Martin Luther or any of the other reformers? What color is on the alter (red). Talk about what you know about the songs that you are sang in Worship. If you don't know, look up the titles online and see if you can find out the stories of the hymns.

Blessings, Elayne Werges, DM, MA

Reformation Sunday is the day that as Lutherans we celebrate the Foundations of the Lutheran Church.

Reformation Sunday

The Reformation was a period of great change in the history of the world. It was a time of great discoveries and an awakening of human potential. Inventors, scientists, musicians, and the Church were in a time of discovery and these discoveries led to the challenge of authority. Here are just a few facts about Martin Luther and of the things that happened during the years 1450-1600.

- 1483-Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany
- Luther's father wanted him to be a lawyer and Martin went to law school, but one day he was traveling in a storm and was almost hit by lightning. Martin prayed to St. Anne to save him and if he was saved he would become a priest.
- 1507 Luther is ordained as a priest at Erfurt
- 1510 Luther was sent to Rome. He saw the corruption of the church
- 1517 Luther nails his *95 Thesis* to the door of the church in Wittenburg. It was the first public act that sparked the Reformation
- 1521- Luther stood before the Emperor and refused to recant his writing at the Diet of Worms. He went into hiding at the Wartburg Castle because his life was in danger. During this time he translated the Bible into German so people could read it.
- 1546-Martin Luther died

*Below is a picture of the Luther Rose. Talk about it as a family and do the Family Crest activity on the back page. Each design and color has a specific meaning. First, there is a **black cross** in the middle of a **red heart**. This reminds us that we believe that Jesus loves us! Placed on the red heart is a black cross. Jesus died on the cross for us, While the cross remains black, the heart stays colorful and alive. The heart lies on a **white rose**. the rose reminds us that our faith gives us joy, peace, comfort. The rose is white because white is the color of angels. **Blue** is the color of the sky and reminds us of heaven. It is also the color of hope all the wonderful things God has promised us. **Gold** is one of the most precious metals in all the earth. God loves each one of us as if we were the most precious thing the world. When we look the ring, there is no beginning or ending. This is to remind us that God's love for the world will never end.*

The Luther Rose



This information has been prepared for you by the
Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network

for use by families and local congregations. For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to: http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp

If you have a comment or suggestion for future newsletters or are interested in joining the Home-Life Network please contact the synod office or contact Elayne Werges at elaynewerges@gmail.com



Make a Family Crest!

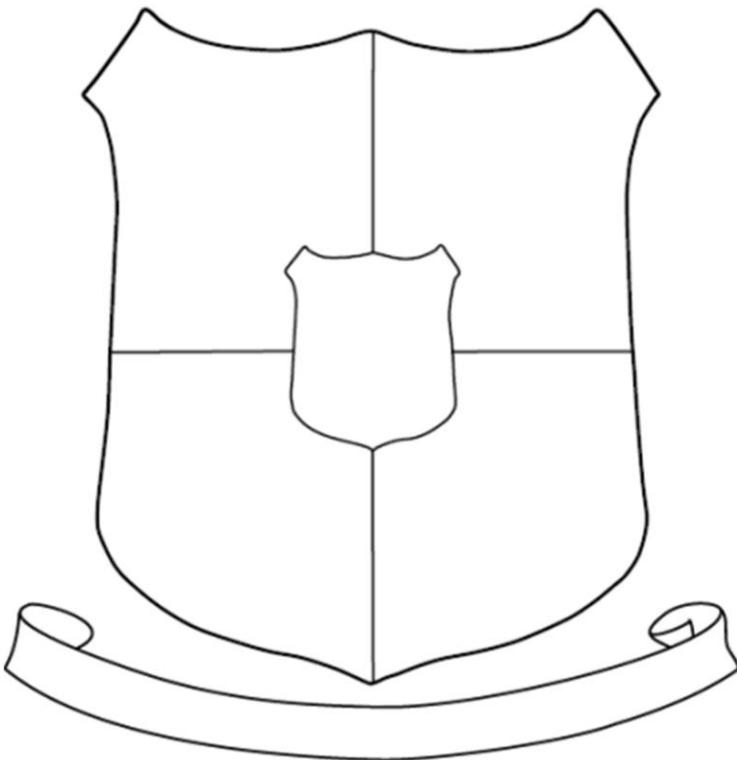
Idea: Luther's Family Crest was the Luther Rose (pictured on the other side of the page) As a family, look online to see if your family has one, or make your own family crest.

Things You will Need:

- ♥ Sharpies, markers, pencils, or crayons
- ♥ Poster board or paper
- ♥ Laminator (optional)
- ♥ Information about where your family has lived such as flags, foods, occupations, and things your family like to do and are important to you.
- ♥ Magazines and pictures (optional)

Directions:

1. Discuss family crests. Then brainstorm with children to get ideas that could represent your family histories or lives. Use the information that you collected. On the large piece of paper, enlarge the shield below or draw an outline of any shape (such as an oval).
2. Divide the shape into three or four equal sections.
3. In each section, draw a picture that represents one idea about your family. You might prefer to cut out pictures from magazines or use a family photograph. Another alternative is to use a computer, since this activity can be done easily with any drawing program or use clip art. Suggestions for the sections: A. who is in your family. B. something about your home or town. C. favorite tree. D. Something important about your family.
4. Talk about why each of the things that you have chosen are important to your family activity. Middle: can be the initial of your last name.
5. Laminate the finished crests, if possible.
6. Display your family crest in your home.



Want to Learn More: Here are Some Suggestions

For Kids:

"Martin Luther, A Man Who Changed the World" by Paul L. Maier

"The Adventures of Martin Luther" by Carolyn Bergt and Art Kirchhoff

For Teens and Adults:

"Luther" (2003) Rated PG13, DVD

"Opening the Door to Luther"-Rick Steves- Video about the history and places in Germany where Martin Luther lived and worked. (<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/History/Opening-the-Door-to-Luther.aspx>)

For Everyone: "Luther's Small Catechism" - By Martin Luther

Table Talk



Conversation Starters: Use these when you gather for a meal or you are driving in the car.

- ✓ What are your blessings today/this week.
- ✓ What were your booboos & blessings today/this week.
- ✓ What can we pray for today/this week
- ✓ If you could change one thing, what would it be? Why?
- ✓ Share one interesting fact you learned today/this week



Make a Diet of Worms Cake!

Idea:

Make a fun dessert as a family while learning about the Diet of Worms.

Things you will need:

- 1 16 oz package sandwich cookies
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioners sugar
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 (4oz) packages vanilla instant pudding mix
- 3 1/2 cups cold milk
- 12 ounces whipped topping, thawed
- 1 package gummy worms

Directions:

1. Process cookies in food processor or blender until finely crushed.
2. Beat cream cheese, confectioners sugar and butter in mixer bowl until smooth, scraping bowl occasionally.
3. Combine pudding mix and milk in bowl, stirring until blended. Fold into cream cheese mixture. Fold in whipped topping.
4. Layer cookie crumbs and pudding mixture alternately in new 8- or 10-inch flowerpot or in individual cups until all ingredients are used, ending with cookie crumbs.
5. Chill for 2 to 10 hours.
6. Decorate with silk flowers and gummy worms.
7. While you are eating the Diet of Worms Cake talk about what happened at the meeting. If you don't remember look it up online.