

FINAL DRAFT

2019 ASSEMBLY SERMON

Celebrating Renewal: Katherine von Bora Luther—Faith in the Home

Thank you. You give the church so much throughout the year and now a weekend to celebrate and direct the church. Thank you.

Our theme is Celebrating Renewal: Katherine von Bora Luther—Faith in the Home. We decided –not faith in the family-because the definition of family is so fluid. So, Faith in the Home. Family has so many different images.

Young—“Dick Van Dyke Show.” But neither of our daughters will watch it. They do not find it funny at all.

-Video- “Oh, Rob”

Was this even close to a marriage of equals?

Then there was the “Honeymooners” skit by Jackie Gleason.

-Video-

How is that not abuse followed by, “Baby, you’re the greatest.”

Then there was “All in the Family.”

-Video-

“Stifle, Edith.” Not really “Words of Love so Soft and Tender.”

Which brought us more TV series like “Married with Children,” etc.
and some cartoons

-Montage-

So, we will let others debate what family is. We will talk about faith in the home. Beginning with the blended family of Mary and Joseph, the stepfather of Jesus. It had to be a home that taught the faith.

Jesus in the temple teaching.

-Slide-

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:46-47

Jesus—who is my mother? Who are my brothers? Those who...

-Slide-

⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:50

Jesus on the cross to Mary and Joseph...

-Slide-

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then

he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. John 19:25-27

Jesus living a life of service.

Slides of each: Feeding, healing, teaching, raising the dead

Definitely faith in the home. A quote from Tim Lull, a Reformation Historian and seminary president: "The form that family life takes is different for each of us and we are deeply aware of that these days. But all of us are connected to others, filled from our birth with the capacity to love, to care, and above all to be committed over time to other people. When the end comes, these commitments are almost always our finest accomplishment. Thanks be to God for the gift of living which we humans possess."

Let's skip ahead a few centuries. Fast forward to Katherine von Bora Luther. You will hear a great deal more about her. Martin would never have been the star without her. She attended to the family, the finances of the household, welcomed all the rag-tag theologians into the household plus brewed the beer for all! What would the Reformation be without her? But here she is as we celebrate the renewal of the church. She made it all work.

-Slides-

Tonight we remember that it all begins with Mary. She said, "I am the servant of my God. I live to do your will."

This reading is called the “Magnificat” because of the Latin translation for Magnify, my soul Magnifies. But it is also magnificent.

-Slide-

⁴⁶*And Mary said,*

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷*and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

⁴⁸*for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹*for the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰*His mercy is for those who fear him*

from generation to generation.

⁵¹*He has shown strength with his arm;*

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,*

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³*he has filled the hungry with good things,*

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴*He has helped his servant Israel,*

in remembrance of his mercy,

*⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever." John 16:12-15*

That is the Good News for

Our families

Our Communities

And the world.

We seek to do God's will. Amen.