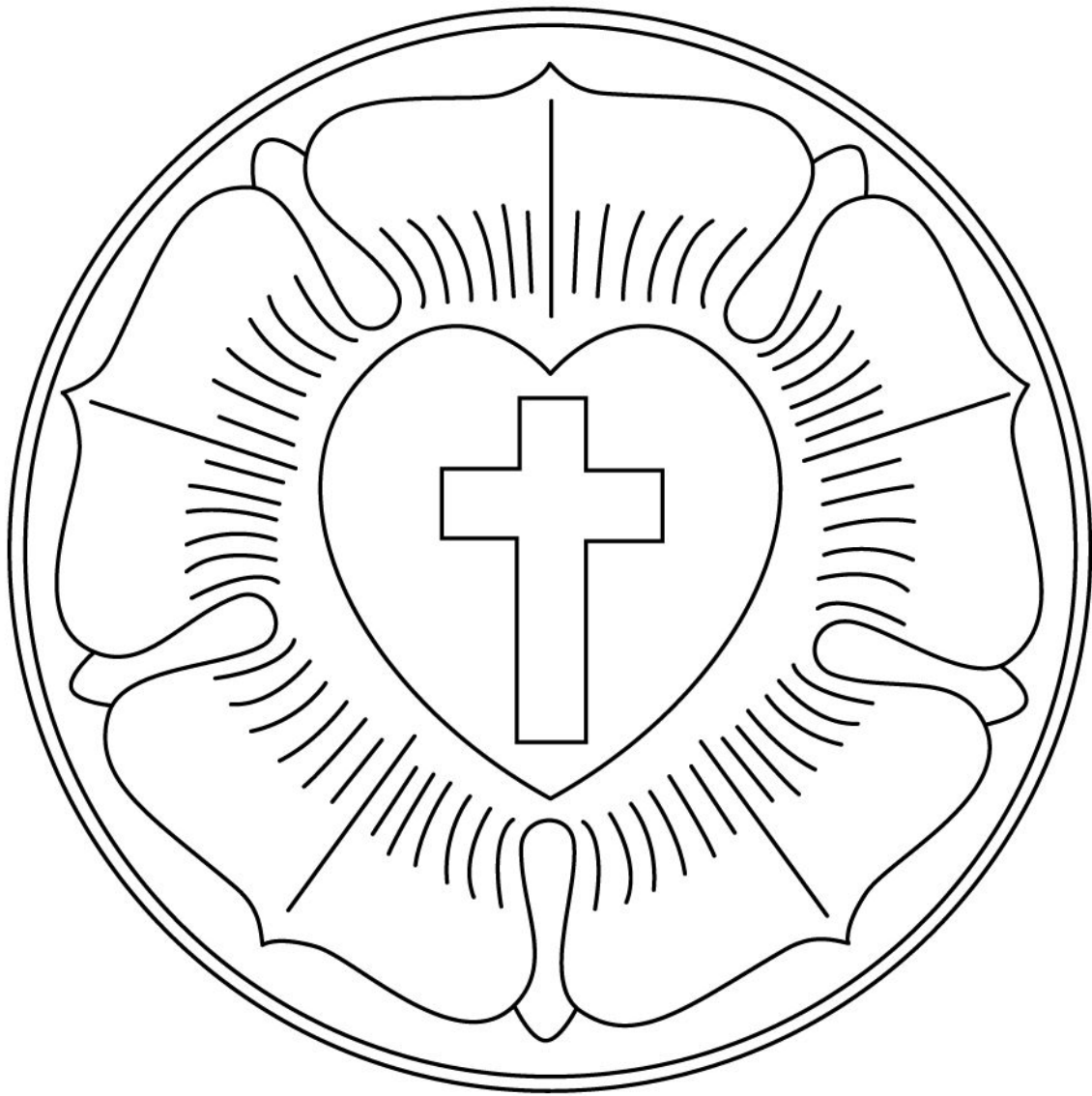


Reformation



This is Martin Luther's seal. Martin Luther drew this picture to show how people are saved. Each picture in the seal shows us something about God's love and plan of salvation for us. Color the seal using the color key below. Read what each item in Martin Luther's seal means.

Cross	black	Christ's death on the cross forgives our sins.
Heart	red	Faith in Christ's death is found in the heart.
Rose	white	Faith in Jesus gives us peace, forgiveness, and joy.
Background	blue	Faith in Christ's death gives heaven.
Ring	gold	Life in heaven brings happiness and will be eternal.



The Story

A long time ago, about 500 years ago, in Germany, a country far away, a baby was born to Hans and Margareta Luther. They named their baby Martin Luther. They brought Martin Luther to church to be baptized. But their church was different from our church. Their church said that in order for your sins to be forgiven, you have to believe in Jesus **and** do good things, but this is not what the Bible says. The Luthers did not know this because there was no Bible for them to read. When the Luthers went to church, they could not understand what the pastor was saying because he was speaking in a different language.

Martin Luther went to school. As he got older, his dad wanted him to become a lawyer. When he was on his way home from school studying to be a lawyer, he was caught in a thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning almost hit Martin Luther. Instead of praying to Jesus for help, Martin Luther prayed to a lady who died a long time ago named St. Anna. Because he was afraid of dying, Martin Luther said that if she would keep him safe from the storm, he would become a monk. A monk was a person who lived in a special place away from his family, prayed, read the Bible, and promised never to marry or have lots of money. St. Anna did not keep Martin Luther safe; God kept Martin Luther safe from the storm because God had a special job for Martin Luther to do.

When Martin Luther was a monk, he felt sorry about all the bad sins he did. These sins bothered him so much, because Martin Luther thought that God was mad at him and would punish him. So Martin Luther tried to do good things in order to be forgiven. He worked hard and prayed. He slept on the floor and beat himself hoping God would feel sorry for him and take his sins away. Then one day he read in the Bible that God forgives sins because Jesus died on the cross. Sins are not forgiven because people do good things. Now Martin Luther was happy his sins were forgiven because Jesus died to take them away. But this was not what the

church was teaching, so Martin Luther wanted to tell others the good news he found in the Bible.

The church did not want him telling others. The church started selling special pieces of paper. They said if a person bought this paper his sins would be forgiven. This is not what Martin Luther read in the Bible. God's forgiveness is free for everyone. It cannot be sold. Martin Luther wanted to do something about this. He wrote down 95 things that were wrong with what the church was teaching. We call these the 95 Theses. He took them to the church door and nailed them on the door. This way everyone who came to the church could read that the church was not teaching what God says in the Bible. Martin Luther nailed these 95 Theses to the church door on October 31, 1517. This is the day we celebrate as Reformation Day.

How do you think the church felt about Luther doing this? They were upset. They wanted Luther to stop talking about God forgiving people because Jesus died for them. They did not want Luther to write these 95 Theses. They told Luther that if he did not stop, anyone could kill him. Martin Luther prayed to God for help. He said that he could not stop telling others about God's free forgiveness because this is what God says in the Bible.

Martin Luther's friends were worried that Martin Luther might die, so they kidnaped him. They took him to a castle where he would be safe. This castle was called the Wartburg. Martin Luther was busy in this castle. He wrote many papers to tell others about Jesus dying for their sins. He also translated the Bible into the German language. Remember how Martin Luther's parents did not have a Bible for them to read. That was because it was written in a different language. Martin Luther wrote the Bible in German so people like his parents could read it.

God protected Martin Luther. Eventually Martin Luther left the castle and got married. He had six children. He kept writing and telling others about God's forgiveness because Jesus died for them. He also wrote songs called hymns. One of his most famous hymns is called "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." He also wrote books that fathers could read to their children. These books were called Catechisms, and they tell about the Bible.

God had a special plan for Martin Luther. God used Martin Luther to show the people how they can get to heaven. Martin Luther found in the Bible that people are saved only because Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins. No one can do good things in order to be saved because all people are sinful. God used Martin Luther to change what the church was teaching. That is why we celebrate Reformation Day on October 31. We praise God that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us.

God showed Martin Luther in the Bible
that sins are forgiven because Jesus
died on the cross for us.
He washed them all away.
Sins are not forgiven because people do
good things.

We thank God that He used Martin
Luther to find in the Bible the good news
that our sins are forgiven because Jesus
paid for them.

Passages

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" Romans 1:17

Hymn TLH -Hymn 262 v. 1

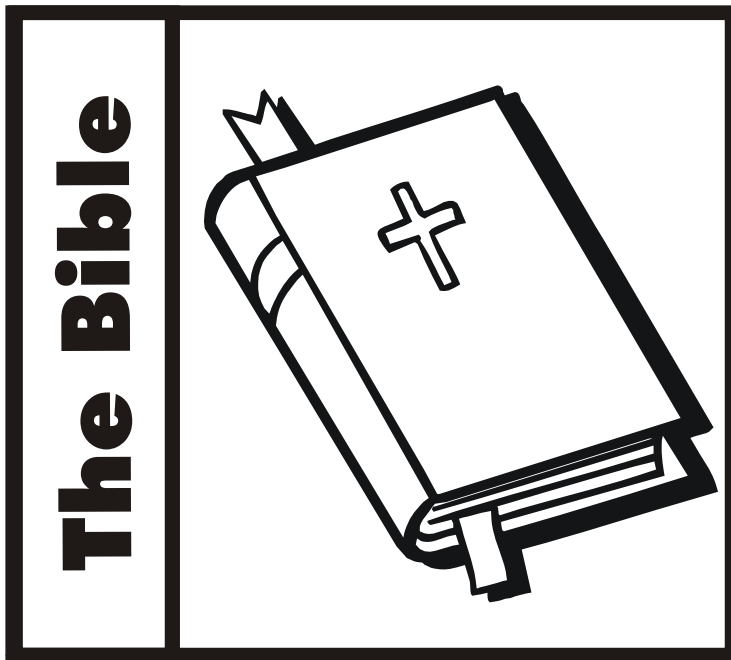
A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken,
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal. Amen.

Prayer

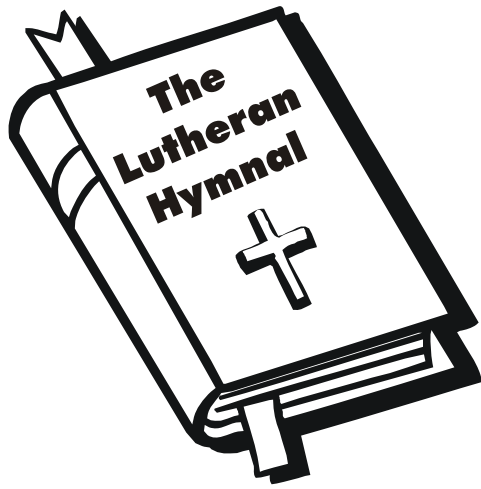
Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for using Martin Luther to show us that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins. Remind us that we cannot do anything to save ourselves. Help us always remember to praise You and tell others the good news that Jesus died to forgive the sins of the world. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Activity One - Reformation Mobile

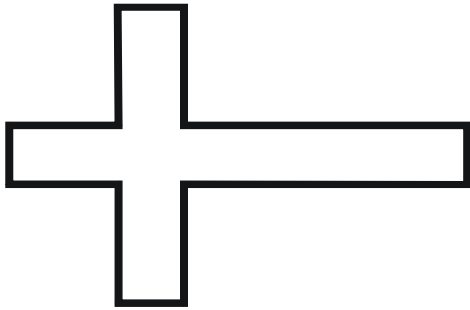
Directions: Color pieces. Cut out pieces "God's Word Shows Us Jesus" and "Died To Forgive Our Sins" along the black lines. Glue the two pieces together end to end to make a top ring. With a hole puncher, punch six holes along the bottom of the top ring. Punch one hole in the top of each rectangular picture. Connect the pictures to the top ring with yarn and hang.



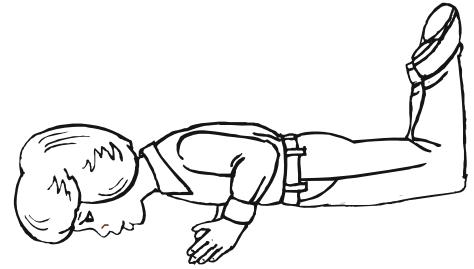
Hymns



Martin Luther



Jesus



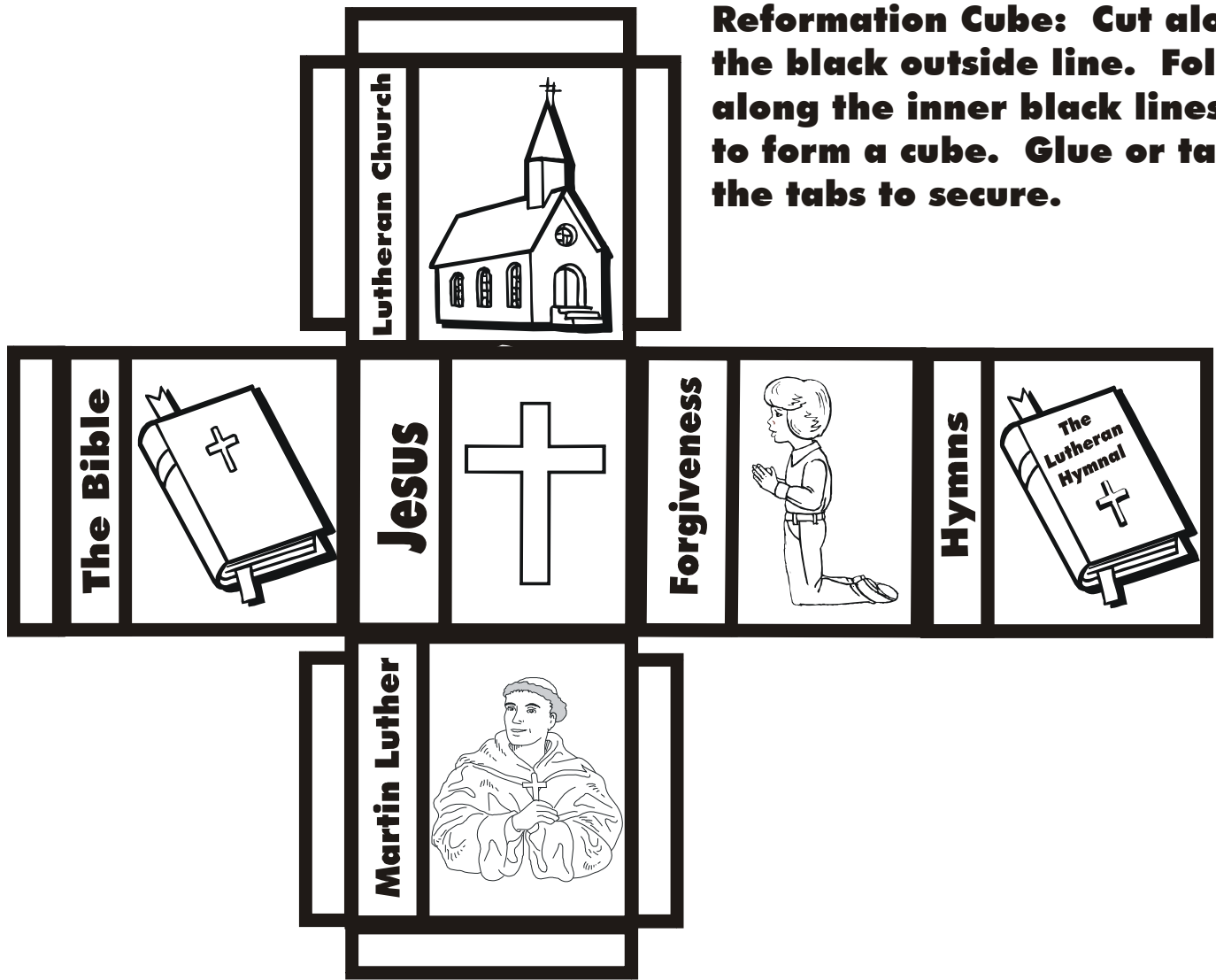
Forgiveness

Activity Two - Color the cross stained glass window.

Martin Luther read in God's Word that forgiveness of sins only comes through Jesus dying on the cross. Color the picture of the stained glass window cross.



Activity Three - Color, cut out and fold the Reformation CUBE.



Reformation Cube: Cut along the black outside line. Fold along the inner black lines to form a cube. Glue or tape the tabs to secure.