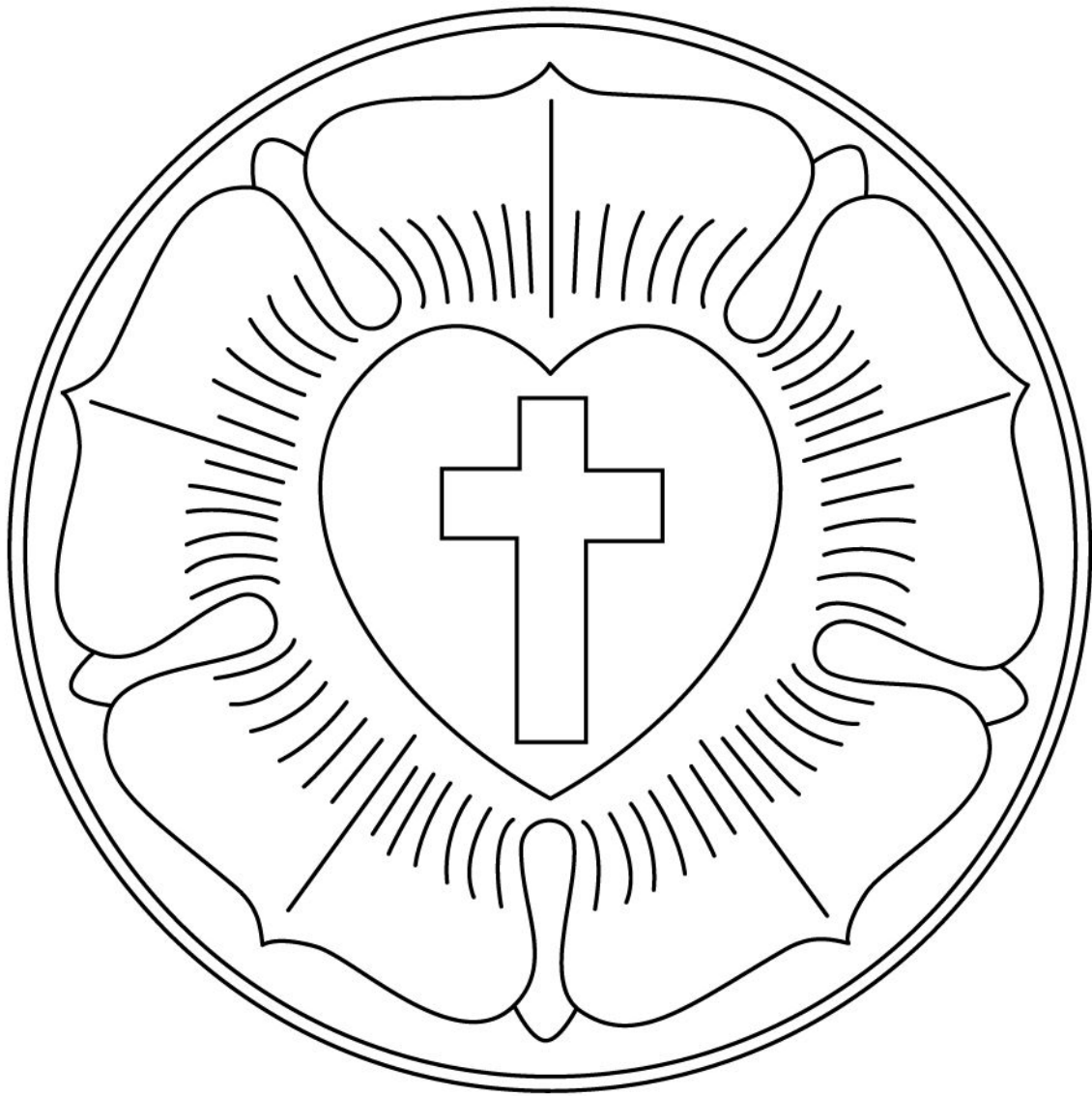


Reformation



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 in a country called Germany, Hans and Margareta Luther had a baby boy. They named him Martin Luther. God was going to use Martin Luther to do very important things for the church.

The church at Martin Luther's time was not teaching what God's Word said. The church said that if you wanted your sins taken away you have to do good things. That is not what God's Word says. God's Word says that our sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross. The church also said that people should pray to saints. Saints were dead people who believed in Jesus. God does not want us to pray to anyone except Him.

Martin Luther was taught to be afraid of God because God was going to punish him because of his sins. We should not be afraid of God. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us to take away our sins, but Martin Luther was not taught this.

One day when Martin Luther was on his way home, a thunderstorm came. Lightning struck a tree right next to him. Martin Luther was afraid he was going to die, so he prayed to Saint Anna. He should have prayed to God. He asked Saint Anne to keep him safe. If she would, he would become a monk. A monk is a person who lives away from his family and lives his whole life praying and working for God.

God kept Martin Luther safe from the storm, and Martin Luther became a monk. Martin Luther was still worried about his sins. He tried to do everything that was good. He prayed. He worked. He slept on the floor. The more he tried to be good, the more he knew how bad his sins were. A friend told Martin Luther to read the Bible. There Martin Luther

read the wonderful news that his sins were forgiven because Jesus died on the cross. He did not have to do good things to pay for his sins.

Martin Luther was excited that his sins were forgiven because Jesus died on the cross to take them away. He wanted others to know about this, but the church did not want others to know this. The church told the people that if they wanted their sins forgiven, they had to buy special pieces of paper. Martin Luther did not like this. This is not what God said in the Bible. He wrote 95 sentences saying that the church was not teaching what God says in the Bible. He took these 95 sentences and nailed them to the church door. He did this on October 31, 1517. This is the day we call Reformation Day. God was using Martin Luther to change the church into teaching what God says in the Bible.

The church was not happy with Martin Luther's 95 sentences. They wanted him to stop talking about forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death on the cross. The church said that he could be killed if he did not stop preaching this. Martin Luther prayed to God for help. He said that he had to preach that Jesus died to forgive sins.

Martin Luther's friends were worried that he would die, so they took Martin Luther to a castle. Martin Luther stayed there for about a year writing the Bible in the German language so all the people in Germany could read for themselves how Jesus died to take away their sins.

Martin Luther did many other important things. He wrote some of the songs in our hymnal. One is called, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." He wrote two books called

Catechisms. They talk about the important things in the Bible. He even got married and had six children.

God had a special plan for Martin Luther. God used Martin Luther to show the people that Jesus died to take away the sins of the world. 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 thank God that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us. We also 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. God used Martin Luther to show people from the Bible that they are saved because God loved everyone so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross.

God showed Martin Luther in the Bible that sins are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross for us.

Jesus 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

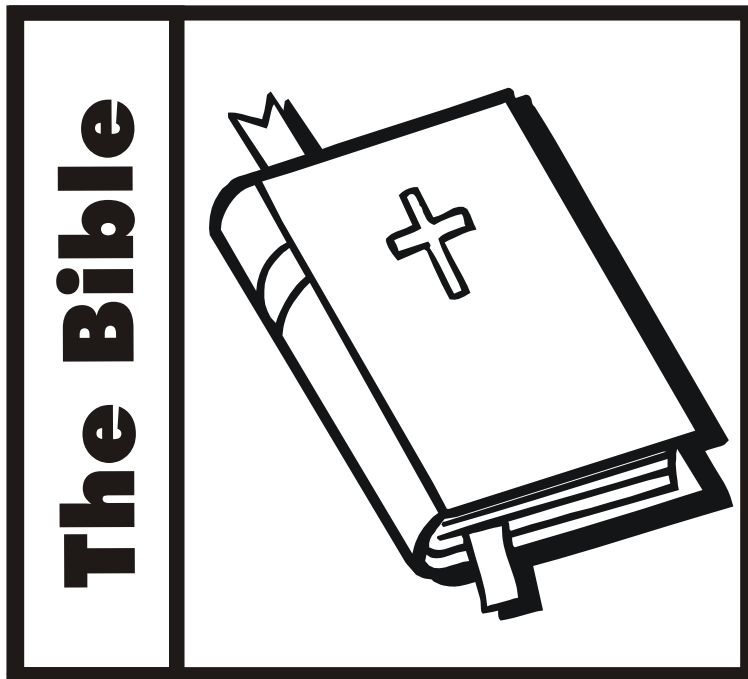
A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o’ertaken,
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal. Amen.

Prayer

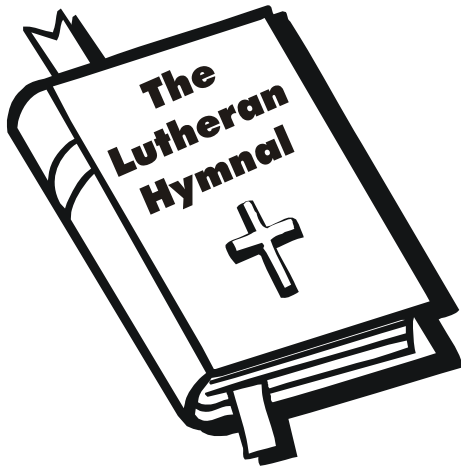
Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive me of my sins. Help me remember to thank You each day for Your gift of forgiveness.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Activity One - Reformation Mobile

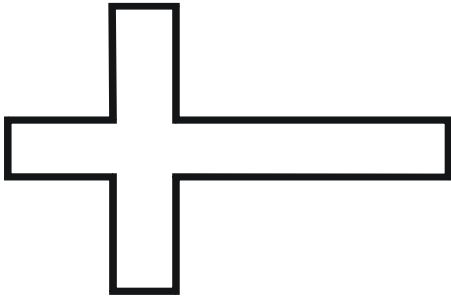
Directions: Color pieces. Cut out pieces "God's Word Shows Us Jesus" and "Died To Forgive Our Sins" along the black lines. Glue the two pieces together end to end to make a top ring. With a hole puncher, punch six holes along the bottom of the top ring. Punch one hole in the top of each rectangular picture.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



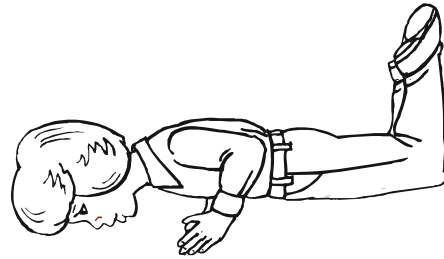
Hymns



Martin Luther



Jesus



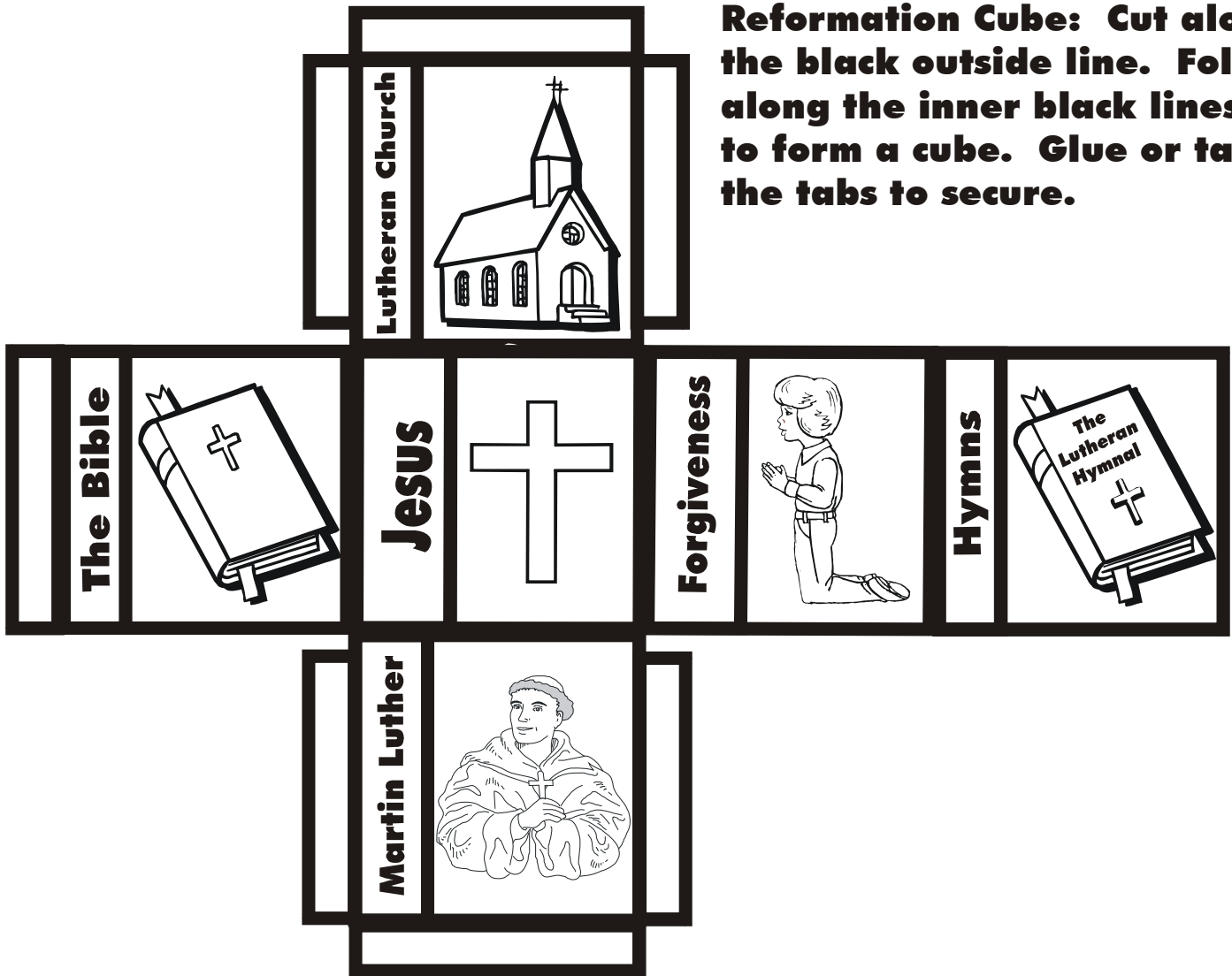
Forgiveness

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.