



Reformation Reader's Guide

Invitation

In 1517, Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* sparked a conversation about reform in the church that continues even today. October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary observance of the evangelical reform movement that was based on learning and fueled by publishing.

You are invited to learn about the reformers and the writings that sparked a world-changing renewal in the church. You are encouraged to explore the meaning of the Reformation for the ongoing life and mission of the church.

Augsburg Fortress and Fortress Press provide a large number of publications for you to use as you commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and reflect on its continuing importance. To help you with your commitment to this observance, we offer the following Reformation Reader's Guide, which you can use to create personal and group reading plans.

Reading Options for Everyone

Martin Luther: His Life

Martin Luther: His Writings

Martin Luther: For Reflection

Reformation at 500



Reading options for everyone

Whether you want to know more about Luther's life, dig into his rich theological offerings, or reflect on the ongoing Reformation today, this guide provides a plan.

To begin, consider the following categories:

- Martin Luther: His Life
- Martin Luther: His Writings
- Martin Luther: For Reflection
- Reformation at 500

Then consider the following questions:

- Where do I want to begin? Which category interests me most?
- If I want something a group can discuss, what do I choose?
- If I recruit a group for reading and discussion, what will be the time frame for reading and conversation? When must I order material to make it available in a timely way?
- What impact might this time of study have on worship planning and celebration? How might it affect possible dialog with Roman Catholic neighbors or other ecumenical partners?

Reading plan options

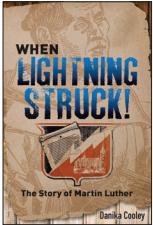
Each reading option you can choose is designated by the following options:

- E** → Easy, accessible, a good place to begin
- M** → Moderate, still accessible but may be longer and include some footnotes or annotations
- C** → Challenging, Luther's treatises with introductions and annotations



Martin Luther: His Life

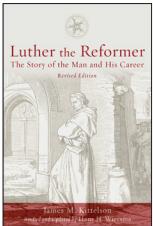
Luther's life and times come alive in the following biographies and a stunning pictorial atlas.



E **When Lightning Struck: The Story of Martin Luther**

by Danika Cooley

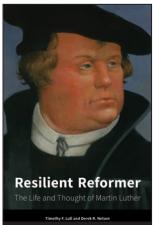
Written specifically with teen readers and adults new to Luther in mind. In the style of a fast-paced, action-packed novel. [hc, 264 pp.](#)



M **Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career, Second Edition**

by James M. Kittelson and Hans H. Wiersma

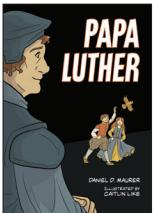
This best-selling biography provides a great resource for delving into the depths of the Reformer without drowning in a sea of scholarly concerns. In this second edition, Hans H. Wiersma has made an outstanding text even better with a revised text including new images, bibliographies, and timelines to enhance the experience. [pb, 316 pp.](#)



M **Resilient Reformer: The Life and Thought of Martin Luther**

by Timothy F. Lull and Derek R. Nelson

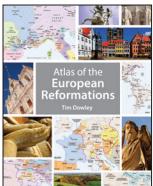
In this new biography, Luther is an energetic, resilient actor, driven by very human strengths and failings. Luther is portrayed more as a loud tenor in the Reformation chorale than as a solo voice of dissent against the church and empire. [pb, 411 pp.](#)



E **Papa Luther: A Graphic Novel**

by graphic novelist Daniel D. Maurer with illustrations by Caitlin Like

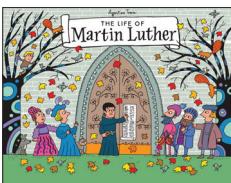
This full-color graphic novel—or comic book—for children ages 8 to 13, is also suitable for older youth (and more than a few adults, too!). *Papa Luther* tells the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation as seen through the eyes of his children. Perfect for individual reading, as well as in small or large group studies. A leader guide is also available as a digital download. [pb, 88 pp.](#)



E **Atlas of the European Reformations**

by Tim Dowley

This new, definitive atlas provides a remarkably clear view of the broader Reformation scene. Features color images, timelines, and commentary to go with 60 beautiful and informative maps. Especially useful for group study. An online study guide is available for use with younger students and confirmation. [pb, 160 pp.](#)



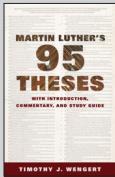
E **The Life of Martin Luther: A Pop-Up Book**

by Agostino Traini

The story of Martin Luther and his role in sparking the Protestant Reformation is given an interactive retelling in this beautiful and sturdy pop-up book—perfect for kids of all ages! [hc, 14 pp.](#)

Martin Luther: His Writings

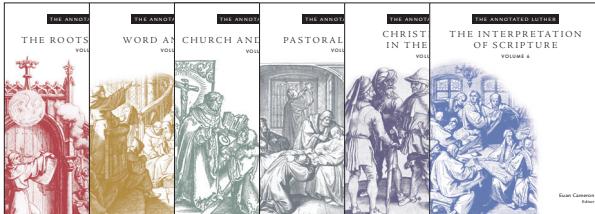
Explore Luther's own key writings with guidance from top Luther scholars.



M Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide

by Timothy J. Wengert

One of the best-known interpreters of Luther today helps set this important document in its historical context alongside Luther's popular *Sermon on Indulgences and Grace* and his *Letter to Archbishop Albrecht*. The introduction and annotations are a treasure trove of information, and the study guide makes this a great resource for group reflection and discussion. [pb, 102pp.](#)

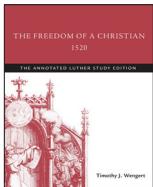


M-C The Annotated Luther series

Six volumes featuring several of Luther's most important writings have been gathered and annotated by experts on Luther, Lutheran theology, and the Reformation. Volumes feature new Introductions to Luther's writings, several annotations, and multiple images—with the express intent of making Luther's writings more readable and accessible. [hc](#)

The Annotated Luther Study Editions

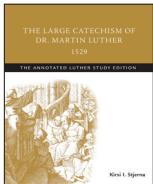
To make the writings included in The Annotated Luther series (above) even more accessible, several of the key treatises in the series have been broken out into individual volumes. The same introductions, annotations, and images are included in the Study Editions below.



M The Freedom of a Christian, 1520

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Timothy J. Wengert

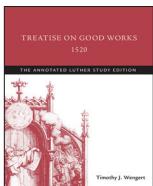
Perhaps the most widely read of Luther's writings and a great introduction to his theology. [pb, 88 pp.](#)



M-C The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, 1529

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Kirsi I. Stjerna

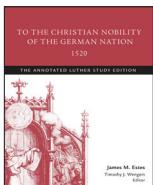
This impressive expansion of Luther's widely read *Small Catechism* offers his seminal teachings on the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments, and more. [pb, 154 pp.](#)



M-C Treatise on Good Works, 1520

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Timothy J. Wengert

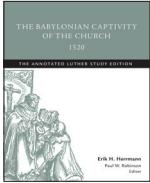
Luther's transformational idea of justification by faith alone was misrepresented in the early years of the Reformation. In this treatise, Luther sets out to clarify the biblical foundation of good works. [pb, 124 pp.](#)



C To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, 1520

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by James M. Estes

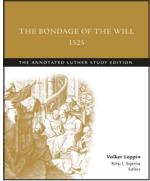
After several appeals to church authorities for reform, in this treatise Luther appeals to secular authorities for help with the reform. He urges kings, princes, nobility, cities, and communities to take the steps toward reform with the hope that church leaders would follow. [pb, 112 pp.](#)



C The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, 1520

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Erik. H. Herrmann

In this treatise, Luther positively aims to reconsider the meaning of sacraments for Christian life. His thesis is that the papacy had distorted the sacraments with its own traditions and regulations. [pb, 138 pp.](#)



C The Bondage of the Will, 1525

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Volker Leppin

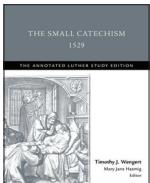
Luther engages in serious intellectual debate with Erasmus on Holy Scripture, free will, and the doctrine of God. [pb, 122 pp.](#)



M Little Prayer Book, 1522, and A Simple Way to Pray, 1535

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Mary Jane Haemig and Eric Lund

In *Little Prayer Book, 1522*, Luther seeks to reform the theology and practice of prayer in clear and understandable language for all people by encouraging simple, direct prayer to God. In *A Simple Way to Pray, 1535*, Luther offers his barber and all other readers insights into his own prayer life. [pb, 86 pp.](#)



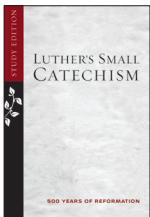
M The Small Catechism, 1529

by Martin Luther with introduction and annotations by Timothy J. Wengert

Luther's Small Catechism explains the basics of Christian faith in a way resonant with his understanding of justification by faith, which also implied, for Luther, the proper distinction between law and gospel. This is applied to his explanations of the parts of the Catechism. [pb, 68 pp.](#)

Martin Luther: For Reflection

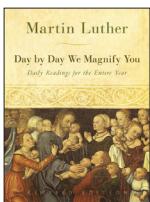
Read Luther devotionally and reflect on his understanding of Christian vocation.



E Luther's Small Catechism Anniversary Study Edition

by Martin Luther; edited by Timothy J. Wengert

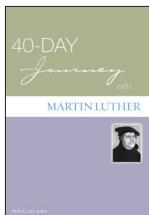
A translation of Luther's explanations along with other catechetical study helps, such as prayers, worship rites, and Luther's introduction. The *Anniversary Study Edition* features a new cover design, new illustrations by Roman Catholic artist Gertrud Mueller Nelson, and a letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. [pb, 88 pp.](#)



E Day by Day We Magnify You: Daily Readings for the Entire Year, Revised Edition

by Martin Luther; compiled and edited by Marshall D. Johnson

Readings from Luther's sermons and other works are arranged according to the church year and organized under a central theme for each week. Each daily meditation includes a prayer, bible verse, or question to ponder. [pb, 440 pp.](#)

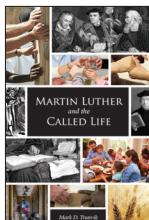


E 40-Day Journey with Martin Luther

by Martin Luther; compiled and edited by Gracia M. Grindal

Forty inspiring passages raise profound truths about faith and life. Includes short introduction to Luther's life, journal-writing exercises, and daily prayers. A great option for Advent and Lent study and reflection.

pb, 112 pp.



M Martin Luther and the Called Life

by Mark D. Tranvik

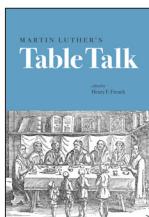
One of the hallmarks of Luther's theology was his concern for daily Christian life. From this concern emerged Luther's own powerful sense of vocation. The book encourages readers to explore what this sense of vocation and calling might mean for their lives. Study questions included to encourage group discussion. pb, 186pp



M The Wit of Martin Luther

by Eric W. Gritsch

Ties Luther's wit and humor to his sharp, polemical exploitation of the absurd or incongruous in service to his Reform. At a deeper level, Luther's wit and witticisms reflected his keen appreciation of human frailty and the unknowability of things divine. pb, 144 pp

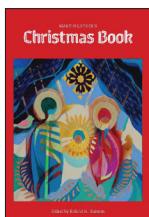


M Martin Luther's Table Talk

edited by Henry F. French

Luther's friends took notes of many private conversations around the Luther family table, and now you can join them, too. Pull up a chair and spend some time with the great reformer.

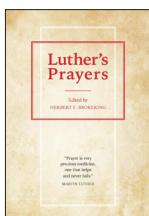
pb, 200 pp.



E Martin Luther's Christmas Book

by Martin Luther; edited by Roland H. Bainton

This inspiring collection contains thirty excerpts from Martin Luther's Christmas sermons and nine elegant illustrations by Luther's contemporaries. This treasure is the perfect way to celebrate Christmas in light of the Reformation 500 anniversary! pb, 88 pp.



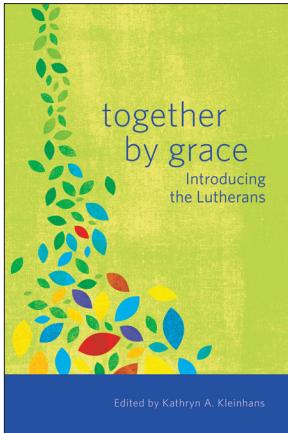
M Luther's Prayers

by Martin Luther; edited by Herbert Brokering

Martin Luther's powerful prayers explore topics spanning all of life: the soldier, employer, politician, pastor, sick person, parent, newlywed, teacher. Five hundred years later, these prayers still ring true, calling us into an ever-closer relationship with God. pb, 120 pp.

Reformation at 500

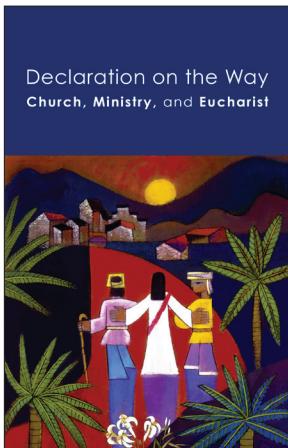
Explore how the Reformation continues to impact the church and consider ways Catholics and Lutherans can continue to journey together toward unity.



M Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans

edited by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

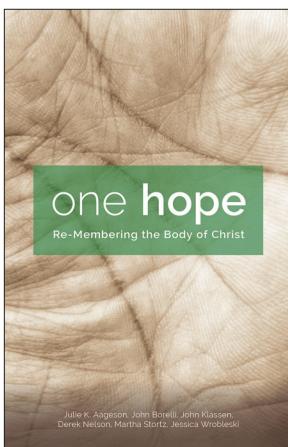
Serves as a rich resource book for getting to know who Lutherans are, what they teach, where they come from, and where they are today. Includes sections on Lutheran basics, Lutheran history and practice, and a wide range of stories from the global Lutheran family. More than thirty contributors—teachers, pastors, bishops, activists, and global Lutherans—have written for this resource. *Together by Grace* can be read “cover to cover” by individuals, or each section can be used as a session for small or large group studies. A leader guide is also available as a digital download. [pb, 216 pp.](#)



E-M Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist

by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

This study celebrates fifty years of international and regional Lutheran-Catholic dialogues and harvests the results of those efforts into Statements of Agreement on church, ministry, and eucharist. Though this is a declaration “on the way,” the study offers some possible ways forward and encourages Catholics and Lutherans to continue their journey together toward unity. Read and discuss *Declaration on the Way* in adult study groups. [pb, 144 pp.](#)



E-M One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ

by Julie K. Aageson, John Borelli, John Klassen, Derek R. Nelson, Martha Stortz, and Jessica Wroblewski

A rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities mark the approaching 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The essays here are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic. [pb, 104 pp.](#)

Count down to the 500th
anniversary of the Reformation with
Road to the Reformation

Follow Road to the Reformation on Facebook,
Twitter, and Pinterest to learn where Luther was
day-by-day 500 years ago!



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