

2017 • A Symposium on Reformation 500

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast," (Ephesians 2:8-9). Symposium on Reformation 500 focuses on the blessings that God has given to the church today through the work of Martin Luther.

Luther and the Standards

Professor Kenneth Cherney (WLS 1988), Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin

Nathaniel Biebert, reactor; Earle Treptow, advisor

This essay will review the central core of Luther's confession of divine revelation. It is a review that includes both exegesis and systematic theology. The study lays the foundation for the central teaching of Scripture, the gospel and the justifying act of God, and then summarizes the impact of this teaching on faith and life.

Luther and the Scriptures

President Paul Wendland (WLS 1979), Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin

Justin Cloute, reactor; Stephen Geiger, advisor

This essay will review Luther's ministry as interpreter of the Bible. Topics include: Luther, the university lecturer and cultivator of pastors; Luther the law/gospel preacher; Luther the translator of Scripture; and Luther's personal and devotional use of Scripture.

Luther and the Saints

President Mark Zarling (WLS 1980), Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota

Jon Zabell, reactor; Bill Tackmier, advisor

This essay will review Luther's teaching about the universal priesthood of all believers and its relationship to the public ministry. The study naturally leads to a review of Luther's thought on the family and the nobility of vocation and his efforts to arm and encourage the laity through worship, hymns and catechism.

Luther and the State

Professor Mark Braun (WLS 1969), Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Paul Naumann, reactor; James Korthals, advisor

This essay will demonstrate how Luther's attitude toward the means of grace made Lutheranism unique for its time in its struggle to keep church and state separate: Since only the gospel can create faith and preserve orthodoxy, the use of the sword, as exemplified in both the Roman sacral state and the Calvinist theocracy, was inherently foreign to Lutheran thought.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- A Martin Luther Hymn Festival
Sunday, October 1
7:30 pm - auditorium
- WLS Alumni Annual Meeting
Monday, October 2
10:30 am - chapel
- Symposium Essays 1 and 2
Monday, October 2
1:00 pm - auditorium
- Reformation 500 Banquet
Monday, October 2
6:00 pm - The Watermark, Thiensville
- Symposium Essays 3 and 4
Tuesday, October 3
8:00 am - auditorium

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This year's symposium includes a number of other special events:

Oct. 1 • 7:30 p.m.

A Celebration of the Hymns of Martin Luther

Featuring many of the hymns Dr. Luther wrote, composed, and edited, the hymn festival means to attract pastors traveling to and participating in the symposium as well as members of WELS congregations. Participating will be the Seminary Chorus, the Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir, and the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee, as well as a host of instrumental musicians.

This will replace the usual Tuesday morning worship service.

October 2 • 10:30 a.m., Annual alumni meeting

6 p.m. • Symposium Banquet, On Monday evening, the symposium banquet will be served to 400 symposium participants at The Watermark in Thiensville. Reservations for the banquet may be made along with registration for the symposium itself, but will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.