

“Baptized We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life” – Wednesdays this fall

Pastor Linstrom is leading the Wednesday Adult Forum this fall with an eight-week Zoom course on Daniel Erlander’s “Baptized We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life.” Erlander’s intro to Lutheran flavored Christianity uses imagination, clarity, and humor as he explores foundations of our tradition.

Free copies of his 28-page “Baptized We Live” booklet are available in the church office. You can also access the pages relevant to the Wednesday session as a document to download via the eBlast sent out the Friday before each session.

Recordings of the Wednesday Zoom forum will be available via Trinity’s YouTube channel.

Mark your calendar and plan to engage this taste of our Lutheran tradition on Wednesdays this fall!

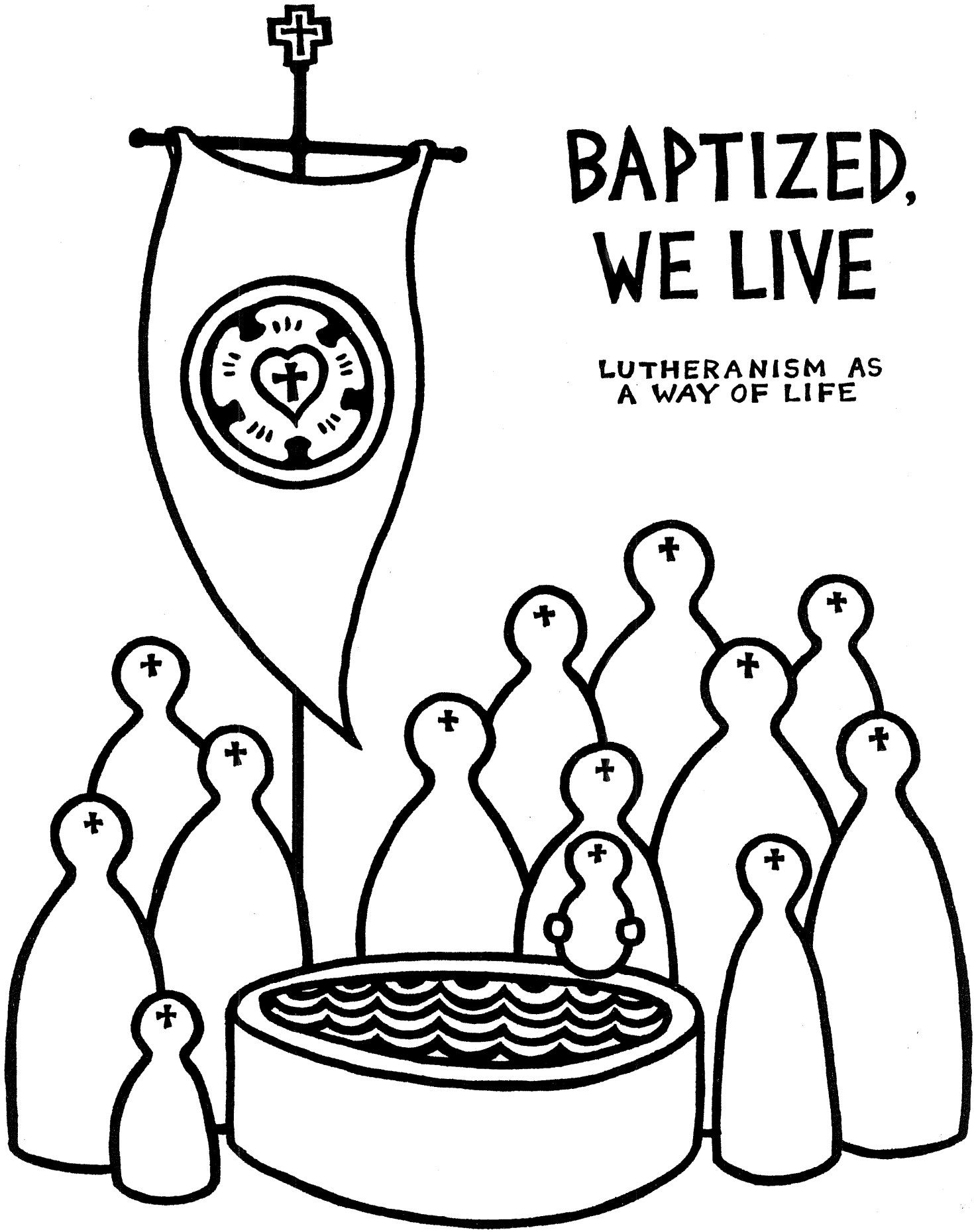
Fall of 2020 WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. via Zoom

(also available as a Zoom recording after each Wednesday morning session)

- September 16 Introduction and Lutheran Liturgy
- September 23 A Way of Seeing (Part 1) *the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion*
- September 30 A Way of Seeing (Part 2)
- October 7 A Way of Hearing (Part 1) *the Word of God*
- October 14 A Way of Hearing (Part 2)
- October 21 A Way of Teaching (Part 1) *our Lutheran confessional tradition*
- October 28 A Way of Teaching (Part 2)
- November 4 A Way of Following (Part 1) *forging a path of discipleship*
- November 11 A Way of Following (Part 2)
- November 18 Wrap Up, and a Self-Study Resource on Ten Critical Ideas

BAPTIZED, WE LIVE

LUTHERANISM AS
A WAY OF LIFE



DANIEL ERLANDER

PREFACE

North American Lutherans were once held together by a common culture. Immigrants gathered into Lutheran churches to share the old ways. When the boats stopped coming and when Lutherans adopted American ways, Lutheran people continued to stay together to be with "those who are like we are." This cultural cement, very strong in the past, is no longer holding. Recently I heard that half of the children who grow up in Lutheran congregations leave the Lutheran Church. Now what do we do? Here are two possible responses:

"Let's play down our Lutheranism and adopt ways which are succeeding in the American religious scene. This way we'll keep more of our children and attract many Americans who would otherwise go to other churches."

"The way of teaching, worshiping and living as Christians which comes from a sixteenth-century church renewal movement should continue within the beautiful diversity of the whole Christian church. Let's do it and do it well. Then let's invite people of all races, cultures and national backgrounds to join us."

This booklet is an enthusiastic affirmation of the second response. This "enthusiastic affirmation" was created during a year's stay at Holden Village, a church renewal center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. I am deeply indebted to the Holden community which surrounded me with love, support, honesty, laughter and encouragement and always held before me the theology of the cross as I worked on this project. I also give thanks to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for granting me a year's leave of absence to go to Holden - a year when I became more excited about being a Christian and a Lutheran, in that order.

Daniel Erlander

INTRODUCTION:

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son our Savior.

Amen.

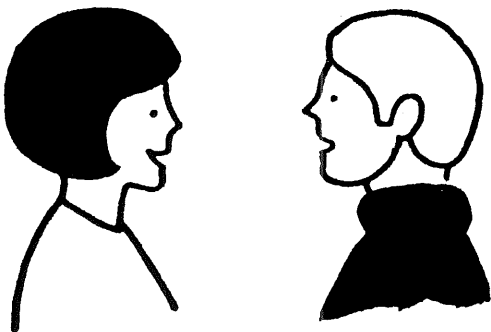


When we pray for the catholic church, we pray for the whole church in all its diversity - believers who gather as Presbyterians, Methodists, Pentecostals, Baptists, Disciples, Episcopalians, Orthodox Christians, Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Adventists, Mennonites, Lutherans, Reformed Christians, Friends and Covenanters. We pray for the faithful who gather in storefront missions, suburban structures, prison and hospital chapels, homes, huts, stadiums, theatres and cathedrals. We pray for Christian communities in all lands, all cultures and circumstances - all who confess Jesus as Lord.

Within this beautiful mix, we live as Lutheran Christians - a people sure of our name but not our identity.

You're a Lutheran. What's a Lutheran anyway?

aaa... I'm not sure.

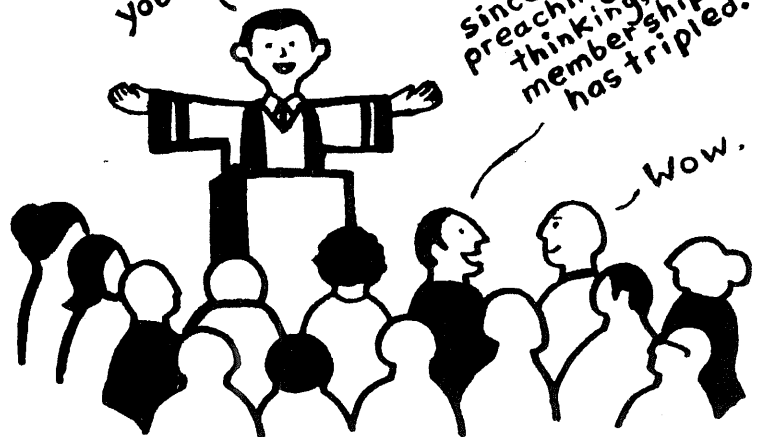


When asked, we often have a difficult time explaining what Lutherans are.

God wants you to succeed

Since he started preaching possibility thinking, our membership has tripled!

Wow.



When we don't understand and appreciate our identity, we are tempted to adopt what is popular and successful - whatever works!



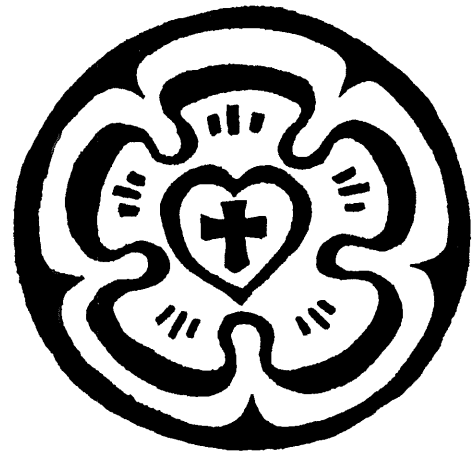
When we are confronted by religious language which we do not hear in our Lutheran pulpits, we wonder if Lutheran pastors are really preaching the Bible.

Often confused about our identity, unable to answer questions about our tradition and sometimes wanting our congregations to copy, without question, what is popular in the religious marketplace, we need to ask...

What is Lutheran Christianity?

This booklet represents an attempt to answer this question in a manner which avoids defining Lutheranism as primarily a system of doctrines. In contrast, the words and pictures in this booklet focus on Lutheranism as a **WAY** -

- A WAY OF SEEING
- A WAY OF HEARING
- A WAY OF TEACHING
- A WAY OF FOLLOWING



You may notice that many of the characteristics of the Lutheran* way described in this booklet are also traits of other Christian traditions. This fact reminds us that Lutherans have no monopoly on certain ways of being Christian. However, this booklet suggests that the total of characteristics discussed is the Lutheran way. Happy reading, looking and struggling!

* The term "Lutheran" was probably first used by Martin Luther's enemies to label his followers. In 1522 Luther attacked this use of his name desiring that all followers of Christ simply be called "Christians." The name stuck, so we who are part of the movement he began are called "Lutherans."

The symbol pictured on this page is "Luther's Seal" - a black cross within a red heart on a white rose surrounded by a blue field and a gold border.