



## ***Pastor as Prophet, Priest and King—Part 1***

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

While in many ways the Office of the Holy Ministry is diminished or undermined in modern Christian circles, there are still those of us who cherish this precious gift of Christ to His Church, for the purposes of preaching His word and administering His sacraments. No, everyone is not a minister, at least not everyone holds the Holy Office of the Ministry. Not everyone is given to preach and teach, and exercise the Power of the Keys.

But in seeking to defend the Office, we must not do so for the sake of the Office itself. For the Office only exists to serve Christ and His people, and in service to the Gospel. Therefore it is good to avoid the opposite error of “putting too much into the Office”, or ascribing to it honors and powers which our Lord himself does not. All too often our sinful nature would twist God's good gifts. It's very tempting for the pastor to allow his authority to become “power” and to wield it for selfish purposes.

With that in mind, however, I offer a perspective on the Office which incorporates the three-fold Office of Prophet, Priest, and King. What I mean to demonstrate, is that these Old Testament offices are reflected in the New Testament and modern day Office of the Holy Ministry, not only in its functions, but in its connection to the three-fold Office of Christ himself. This is not to add functions or aspects to the Ministry, but to recognize that which has always been there and draw out connections for a deeper understanding of this precious gift Christ gives to His church.

### **“God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophet's Sons”**

Perhaps at an ordination or installation of a pastor, or on some other occasion, you've sung the 1884 hymn by Reformed pastor Denis Wortman. The hymn can be found in the current Lutheran Service Book hymnal at #682.

*God of the prophets, bless the prophets' sons;  
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.  
Each age its solemn task may claim but once;  
Make each one nobler, stronger than the last.*

*Anoint them prophets, men who are intent  
To be your witnesses in word and deed,  
Their hearts aflame, their lips made eloquent,  
Their eyes awake to every human need.*

*Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they,  
For pardon and for love and hope and peace,  
That, through their pleading, guilty sinners may  
Find Jesus' mercy and from sin release.*

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God, and that by believing  
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

*Anoint them kings, yes, kingly kings, O Lord.  
Anoint them with the Spirit of Your Son.  
Theirs not a jeweled crown, a blood-stained sword;  
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a kingdom won.*

*Make them apostles, heralds of your cross;  
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.  
Inspired by You, may they count all but loss  
And stand at last with joy before Your face.*

### **History of the threefold office distinction**

We must note that the three-fold office of Christ, as an idea, does not originate with Lutheran theologians.

E.F. Karl Miller writes:

*From the earliest times Jesus has been recognized as the representative of a twofold and yet unitary theocratic function, as king and priest. The spiritual kingdom of the Messiah has its foundation in the sacrifice of his life (Matt. xvi. 16-25, xx. 25-28). This thought may be traced from the second century to the time of the Reformation. But as early as Eusebius a threefold office is ascribed to Christ, that of prophet, priest, and king, and this is traceable to Jewish sources.*

Miller goes on to explain that at the time of the Reformation, Christ as priest and king was roundly accepted. But John Calvin led the charge in adding the prophetic office back into the formulation. For some time there was debate in Lutheran circles as to the propriety of speaking in terms of the three-fold office. Later Lutherans, particularly Paul Gerhard, began to embrace the framework of the three-fold office.

Today, the casting of Christ in his three-fold office is regularly taught among Calvinists, Roman Catholics and Lutherans, alike.

Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, published by CPH (and the go-to textbook for most of our LCMS catechetical instruction) devotes several pages to an explanation of the three-fold office of Christ.

### **Definitions**

While I can't disagree with any of our textbook definitions, it might also be helpful to add some other thoughts concerning each office and its role or function:

**Prophet** – We are shown that Christ preached, and still preaches, through the Gospel. So, the chief function of the prophet is to bear a message. Though modern connotations of prophecy entail “predicting the future”, just as often, prophets speak a word concerning the present reality. In all cases, the prophet speaks what he is given to speak, and therefore serves as a representative. I've found it useful to use a “downward arrow” in describing the prophet's role of representing (speaking for) God to the people.

**Priest** – Our textbook explains that Christ is priest, in that he fulfilled the law in our stead, died in our place, and pleads for us before God. All well and good, and again, representative functions. In his active and passive obedience, he is our vicarious Atoner. His intercessory prayer “represents” us to the Father. Indeed, there is but one Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ. But here, it is an “upward arrow”. As the priest offers up sacrifices and prayers, he also stands between God and man, but this time as representative of people to God.

So in a way, the priest is the opposite of the prophet. Or perhaps we could say they are complementary.

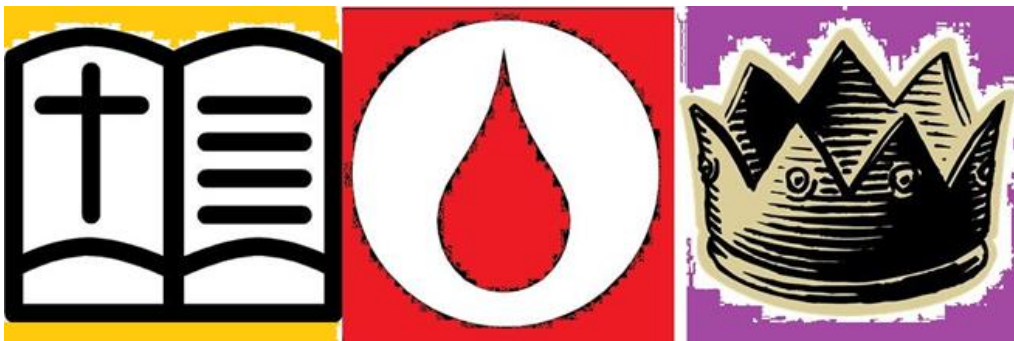
**King-** Modern American conceptions of monarchy are laden with negative connotations, mostly having to do with the power of law (and, in sinful hands, the abuse of such). Of course, Christ's kingly office holds no such negativity.

Our textbook outlines the “three kingdoms” of power, grace and glory, over which Christ the King reigns. Again, without disagreeing, I offer another understanding of this office through the lens of “Law and Gospel”, informed by the example of the Old Testament kings.

The Law function is obvious – rulership and authority. But how does a king function in a “good news” sort of way? The king, especially in Old Testament times, was expected to defend the kingdom. So David would ride to battle with his armies (and when he shirked this duty found himself in trouble with Bathsheba!) The king would even lay down his life to defend his kingdom, his people, from the enemy.

Likewise, the way Scripture speaks of the Old Testament kings as the “Shepherds of Israel”, clues us in. A shepherd protects the sheep, even as he leads and guides them. He drives off the predators, and provides for the sheep to be well-fed and watered. Here Christ is, of course, rightly seen as the Good Shepherd – a kingly function, for the leading and protecting (Law and Gospel) of His sheep.

One clue then, of Christ's desire for his ministers to reflect these same functions is his charge to Peter, “feed my sheep”. And so Lutheran ministers rightly are called “pastor”, that is, shepherd.



It is time to subscribe or renew your subscription. This publication also includes the Texas Messenger which keeps us informed of the happenings around the Texas District. This year the subscription cost is \$14.25 and will begin in January 2020. All subscriptions and payment must be submitted by **October 18** to the church office. A check may be made out to Messiah earmarked in the memo section “Lutheran Witness”. A sign-up sheet can be found on the copy room door.

Questions can be directed to [carol.hibbs@messiahkeller.org](mailto:carol.hibbs@messiahkeller.org).



**Lutheran Witness  
Subscriptions**

The Messiah Church Council met on September 28 from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Here are some highlights:

**Pastor's Report:** Confirmation and Pastor's Class have begun with a mix of old and new members. Two adults are doing instruction toward baptism.

Pastor's new day off is Monday.

**Treasurer:** Herbert Herrmann Jr. is developing a spending plan for church and school to insure we stay both within budget and within revenue!

Combined Church School FY YTD revenue – expenses is \$1,861.23.

Please contact Herbert with questions!

**Elders:** Several older members need transportation to and from Church on Sundays and to dialysis. The Elders directed the Deaconess to open a Lyft account for such use. The Deaconess will manage this account and report to the Elders Board. The Elders will evaluate the utility of this at their next meeting.

John Sweet has begun Confirmation I. Holiday services will be the same as last year.

Please contact Peter Hibbs with questions!

**Evangelism:** Evaluating a path forward for our Angel Tree program. We need an Angel Tree leader. Evaluating how to implement a Volunteer of the Year Program.

Call Bruce Dana with any questions!

**School Board:** Caitlyn Latham was appointed to the board. North Texas Giving Day was a success with almost \$12,000 raised. Enrollment is unchanged. Kris Carter is working a new marketing program.

Please contact Clay Brandt with questions!

**Trustees:** We have a maintenance contract with Oracle Elevator out of DeSoto, Tx and Aire Dynamics of Irving, Tx to maintain our school cooling/heating system. Office flooring scheduled to be installed on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Paul Lara with questions!

**Stewardship:** Financial Peace University is in progress with 6 attendees. A significant gift was received in excess of \$20,000 to be used for the organ fund. The Stewardship Committee presented a plan for the use of the Heidorn Bequest which will be further developed and presented to the Voters later this month.

Please contact Bill Stone with questions!

**Christian Education:** Sunday School is in progress. Thanks Elaine! We need a Chairman!

**Other Topics:** Employee benefits package was determined. Open enrollment begins Oct 28.

Council Vacancy: Christian Education.

Next Council Meeting is October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.



**Higher Things**  
Conferences  
**Watermarked**  
2020

Next summer's Sr. High Youth trip will be to Higher Things, Knoxville, TN (July 14 – 17, 2020).

We'll probably add a day or so on either end of the trip. Mark your calendar now!

## ***The Luther Seal***

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Martin Luther designed this seal while he was a professor at Wittenburg. In a letter to his friend, Herr Spengler, Luther explained the seal: “The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us, ‘For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.’ Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature—i.e. does not kill, but keeps alive. ‘For the just shall live by faith,’ - faith in the Savior. But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits. This rose moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed. And around this groundbase is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joy and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal.” Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.



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## **Community Storehouse Donation**

by Jinel Munoz

Messiah Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy support the Community Store House of Keller's food pantry. T

he month of October, we are asking for special donations of **canned chili**

**and canned beans of any kind.**

Of course, the pantry is always in need of basic items like canned goods and non-perishable items.

Please keep in mind that the holidays are coming

and those are the times that the pantry needs donations most! An updated list of holiday needs will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your continued support!



# FALL FESTIVAL and TRUNK or Treat

**Saturday October 19—4pm to 6pm**

MLCA will be hosting a Fall Festival here on the property.

☐ **Trunk or Treat**

\_\_\_ Yes! We want to enter our car in Trunk or Treat!

Some of the fun includes a pumpkin patch, a balloon artist, a face painter and lots of candy and games.

Trunk Decoration Theme \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ We will provide candy or a non-candy treasure  
(pencil eraser, squish balls, etc)

Also plan to stop by the book fair to support the MLCA library.

\_\_\_ We will not be able to enter our car in Trunk or Treat, but will provide a bag of candy and/or a treat

Costumes are not required, but encouraged.

☐ **Pumpkin Patch Volunteer (30-minute shift)**

\_\_\_ I will sell Pumpkins      \_\_\_ 4-4:30pm      \_\_\_ 5-5:30pm  
   \_\_\_ 4:30-5pm      \_\_\_ 5:30-6pm

**Want to participate?**

Listed are the ways you could help make this event even better.

☐ **Food Handling (30-minute shift)**

\_\_\_ I will serve Hot Dogs      \_\_\_ 4-4:30pm      \_\_\_ 5-5:30pm  
\_\_\_ I will grill Hot Dogs      \_\_\_ 4:30-5pm      \_\_\_ 5:30-6pm  
\_\_\_ I will take food orders

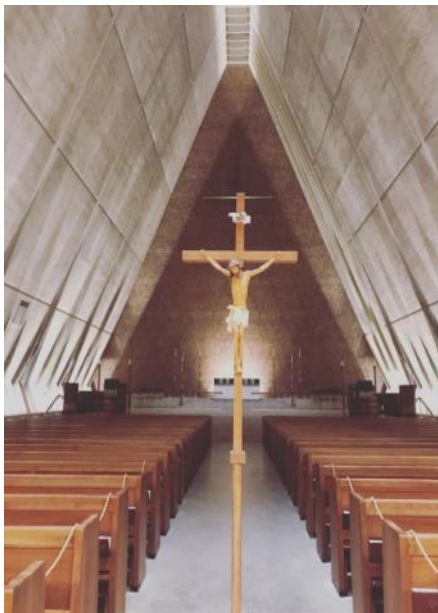
Please contact the school office for details.

☐ **Book Fair Volunteers**

\_\_\_ I will work the Book Fair      \_\_\_ 4-4:30pm      \_\_\_ 5-5:30pm  
   \_\_\_ 4:30-5pm      \_\_\_ 5:30-6pm  
\_\_\_ I will check out books/cashier



Using online posts from Cambria Stame (CUI) and Christ Academy (FaceBook)



The center of all the action at Christ Academy is always the cross.

Christ Academy consists of three elements: confessional catechesis, liturgical worship, and fun times together. Christ Academy turns the extraordinary into the ordinary. It makes attendance at four chapel services daily a way of life. It makes seeing a long line of young men holding the door open for all the ladies to dine first a normal sight. It makes singing hymns on the way to class a priority and reciting portions of Luther's Small Catechism a norm. We shouldn't be surprised at such activities. That's what happens when you make Christ Crucified in Word and Sacrament the center of Christ Academy culture. -Cambria

Christ Academy involves two branches: Timothy School for young men and Phoebe School for young women. These two schools make it possible for high school students to explore the vocation of Pastor and Deaconess. After two incredible weeks, some students prayerfully consider becoming a church worker while others move on to become educated laymen and laywomen; they all leave changed by the Holy Spirit, moved by Christ's presence on the seminary campus, and bonded with confessional Lutheran friends across the US.



**Texas District Participants** (Left to Right): Christina Buhler, Slade Leicht, Micah Kolb, Lance Kiango, Claire Bultemeier, James Buhler, Micah Cumming, Daniel Kolb, John Merritt, Magdalena (Maggie) Obersat, Jesús-Ricardo Cárdenas, Nathan Kieser, Joseph Buhler, Amanda Buhler, David Woelmer, Jill Bultemeier

**Thanks to all of our generous donors, these Texans were able to place God first this summer and attend Christ Academy!**

**THANK YOU!**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/christ-academy/phoebe-school/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://camincam.com/2019/07/12/cam-at-christ-academy/>; Cambria Stame's Blog



## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Board of Stewardship

by Bill Stone—*Chairman*

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

“We are all beggars. This is true.”

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Irony, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.



Our new Hymn of the Month for October is *Not unto Us*—LSB 558. It is listed in the “Justification” section of our hymns. Both the text and music were written by **Kurt J. Eggert** (1923-1993). Although little is known about him, we do know he was a pastor in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and considered to be a Lutheran music scholar. At the time of his death, he was seventy years old and residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is credited with writing the text and music to four tunes in addition to composing the tunes to two more. Eight years after his death, in 2001, a book was published by his loving wife, Ruth, entitled *Not Unto Us: A Celebration of the Ministry of Kurt J. Eggert*.

The scriptures referenced on the bottom of the hymn page may also be very helpful for a more thorough understanding of the text. . .Ps. 115:1; Ephesians 3:21; Philippians 3:8-9; Hebrews 11:13-16.

*Not unto us but to Your name be glory, Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free. Abide with us till traveling days are over and done, And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to You.* (stanza 4)

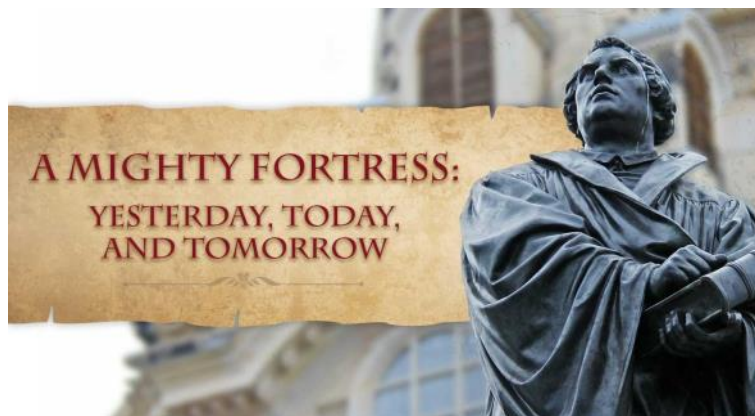
To God be the Glory!

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### Reformation is a-comin’

Plans for having a Reformation orchestra are underway.

Our Reformation Festival will be observed on  
**Sunday, October 27.**



At the late service we are again looking to gather our instrumentalists together for some special pre-service music and the opening hymn, *A Mighty Fortress*. If you play, please consider joining us. Get your instrument out now and start getting those chops back into working order. High schoolers, old schoolers, intermediate/advanced middle schoolers—there’s a place for you. Most all instrumentation can be accommodated. We will rehearse briefly after the late service on **Sunday, October 20**. Music will be available **Sunday, October 13**—see Vicki Main. Come ‘*make a joyful noise!*’

## CARING FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS... ONE PACKAGE AT A TIME!!!

Would you like to help provide items for our college care packages this year? Many of our youth are off at college studying hard. We would like to let them know Messiah cares for them even when they are away from home. These packages show them love and encouragement throughout the year. Last year we sent 24 care packages!

If you would like to supply any items, they can be dropped off in the narthex in the basket provided. I will be collecting items throughout the month of November & December and mailing care packages on the first week of December and last week of April just in time for finals. Monetary donations for snacks/shipping will also be accepted.



In Christ,  
Deaconess Buhler  
972-342-7697

Here are some suggestions:

Peanuts, TEA/Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Fruit Cups, Cheese Crackers, Pretzels, Gum, Popcorn, Peanuts, Granola or Protein Bars, Ramen Noodles, Single Cereal, Goldfish, Animal Crackers, Macaroni & Cheese, Oatmeal, Trail Mix, Cracker Jacks, Apple Sauce, Cookies, Yogurt Covered Snacks

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## CALLING ALL PARENTS!!!!

Do you have a young adult in college or in the service? Sign them up for a CARE PACKAGE today!!!

How do you sign them up? Pass the following information along with a recent photo of your loved one (if you have one) on to Deaconess Buhler by text, email, or church mailbox:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to let them know Messiah cares for them even when they are at college. These packages show them love and encouragement throughout the year.



## Save the Date!!!

Messiah Lutheran Church  
Monday, December 2, 2019  
Time 6:30-9:30pm

This adult women's dessert social helps raise funds to defray the cost of tuition for high school students to attend Christ Academy during the summer. Christ Academy is a special two-week program which provides our young men and women the opportunity to experience the life of a seminarian and one which encourages them to prayerfully consider church work as the vocation they might one day pursue.

If you are interested in hosting a table at this year's event contact Deaconess Buhler for your Hostess Packet!

Tickets will go on sale in November!!

For more information, please see this year's coordinators:

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## North Texas Giving Day

by Alison Smith—*Interim Principal*

North Texas Giving Day was a success!!



MLCA received **over \$11,000** from generous family and friends like you. What a blessing! I want you to know that your gift is supporting the missions of MLCA to mold and shape the minds and spirits of all students to become what God has created them in Christ to be.

Here are some of the things we will be able to do because of your support:

- Creation and Development of a Resource Room for special education and gifted and talented students which includes:
  1. Special equipment and curriculum that addresses the needs of our students
  2. Laptops/tablets
  3. Online programs
  4. Classroom furnishings

We are so grateful for your generosity and your support!



Messiah Lutheran Church & School  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

## The Reformation

exerts from the Messiah Messenger, October 2014

During the month of October, we Lutherans celebrate the anniversary of Luther's nailing of the ninety-five theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Although the ninety-five theses fall quite short of the mature Lutheran Confession, this event is considered the spark of the Reformation because Luther's protest against indulgences and the publishing of the theses became widespread and very popular in a very short amount of time. Luther found himself in the middle of a social storm that he did not anticipate or necessarily desire. This was God's plan to break the devil's hold on the institution of the Church.

In one of his commentaries on Matthew 21:13, Luther compares the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus to the reformation in his own day. The Pope and his machine were not at all unlike the corrupt priesthood of Israel. Matthew 21:13 reads *He (Jesus) said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."*

Luther added: *Likewise, the pope has made the holy Christian Church into such a den of robbers. For once that temple was destroyed and our Lord Jesus Christ had built Himself a Church as wide as the world, and He Himself became the temple in which God hears our prayer, that damned villain, the pope, came along and removed the Lord Christ from our sight. He no longer let Him be our Redeemer, but rather made Him into a wrathful judge whom we had to appease with other mediators, such as the deceased saints and the living monks and priests, as well as through his indulgences and our pilgrimages and other trifles—and all of this for money, with which no one could possibly satiate him.*

*This is also what is happening with us. God has freely give us His Son and all His gifts, such as His Word, the Supper, Baptism, and Absolution. And through Baptism people are supposed to be washed and cleansed of all sins and obtain forgiveness of sins. The Supper was instituted so that those who need consolation would be refreshed by it and strengthened in their faith, and so that we would better appreciate the forgiveness of sins from day to day and be swept clean of the sins and filth remaining in us. Likewise, the Absolution and other part were all instituted in order that the Christian Church would be strengthened by them, for they are all a house of prayer to strengthen our faith. Then along comes the pope, the devil in Rome, who is supposed to serve our souls with all these gifts, but he makes it all into a business.*

Luther goes on to describe various laws created by the Pope, for which he regularly granted dispensations for payment.

*And this trick of selling everything for money is not human, but demonic. The pope can take no profit from teaching the faith, since everything there is given for free.*

It is through the courage and determination of Luther that "the temple is now as wide as the world." He was God's instrument to bring the Gospel and Sacraments back into light of day.

### Happy Reformation!

