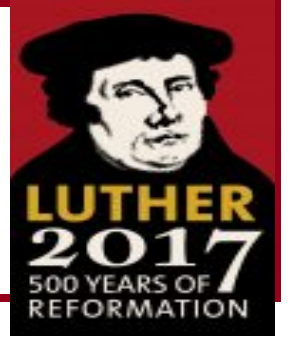


Martin & Katie Luther

Gen 2:18-25 Psalm 127 Eph 6:1-9 Matt 19:1-6

March 26, 2017

Pastor Dave Bolte



In 1505, Martin Luther was 100% Roman Catholic. He had to be, there was no other option; there were no other churches or denominations. Martin Luther was born to Hans and Margaret Luther; he was baptized on the same day he was born. His father worked in the copper mines. Luther grew up studying Latin, and when he was 13 years old, his father sent him to the university to study law. He was an excellent student and a skilled public debater. He would have been a competent lawyer.

But on July 2, 1505, Martin Luther's life took a dramatic turn. After visiting his parents and on his way back to school on horseback, Luther found himself in the middle of a severe thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning struck the ground so close to him that he thought he was going to die! It scared him to death! He was so terrified of dying and facing God's judgment that Luther screamed out, *"Help me, St. Anne! I will become a monk!"*

Luther was so scared that he took his vow seriously, one which he could never break. Two weeks later, he left law school, sold his books, and became an Augustinian monk!

Of course, we know that 12 years later in 1517, Martin Luther went on the lead the Reformation of the Church as he posted the 95 Theses and began to restore the Gospel of Jesus Christ to its rightful place.

- † He learned that **Jesus alone** is the Savior, whose life, death and resurrection is counted as our own, and we are righteous in God's eyes
- † He learned that we are rescued from sin, guilt and death by **grace alone**, because God the Father loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior.
- † He learned that we are saved by **faith alone**; and not by any works, effort, or merit of our own.
- † He learned that we trust **Scripture alone**, for God only speaks to us in His Holy Word.

God chose and called Martin Luther through that lightning storm in 1505 to restore the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the forefront of the Holy Christian Church in 1517! God worked through Martin Luther to reform and renew the Holy Christian Church!

One of the corrupt teachings in Martin Luther's day was that celibacy was *mandatory* for monks. **Of course, mandatory celibacy means widespread sexual immorality as history proves.** One of the things that Martin Luther discovered in the Bible was that celibacy is **optional** and a **rare gift** for a select few. He learned that **marriage is the normal way of things; marriage between one biological man and one biological woman is a gift from God.**

Marriage is a Gift and Blessing from God

The Holy Scriptures teach us that the Lord created marriage in the Garden of Eden, before sin entered the world. After parading the animals before Adam to **see, learn, and name** them, the Lord said, **"It is not good for man to be alone."** So God created Eve from the rib of Adam, and the Lord Himself brings her to Adam. God created marriage in the Garden of Eden and blessed it. **Marriage is a gift and a blessing from God!**

Just as it was not good for Adam to be alone, so too, it was not good for Martin Luther to be alone either! So the Lord brought a wife into Martin Luther's life. Her name was **Katharine Von Bora. Katie**, as Luther called her, was a runaway nun. In the 1500's, fugitive nuns would be arrested and punished. Katie and several other nuns hid away in fish barrels and were smuggled to Wittenberg, the center of the Reformation, where she met Martin Luther.

One thing led to another, and Martin and Katie were married in 1525; he was 41, and she was 26. They were married for 21 years. By all accounts they had a good marriage. Katie was a hard worker who tended to their farm and raised their children while Martin Luther taught at the university and led the Reformation.

One of the things that is attributed to Martin Luther is this saying, **"Christians get married in order to help each other get to heaven."** Of course, he did not mean that marriage was some sort of good work that earned salvation because only the Lord Jesus Christ has earned our salvation! It's His work alone that counts towards our eternal salvation! What Luther meant when he said, **"Christians get married in order to help each other get to heaven"** is that a husband and wife share not only an intimacy in physical, emotional, and intellectual things, but also in **spiritual things**. A husband and wife are concerned for each other's spiritual well-being; they **support** and **encourage** each other in the faith. At times they **correct** each other; other times they **comfort** each other. A husband and wife **sharpen** each other in the faith: they are **partners** in life – and in faith.

If you are *married*,
do everything you can to make your marriage the best possible;
your husband or wife is God's gift to you!

If you are *single*,
remember that the Bible teaches that Christians marry Christians;
you have no business falling in love and marrying an unbeliever.

“Christians get married in order to help each other get to heaven”

One thing we learn from Martin and Katie Luther is that marriage is the normal way of things, and that husband and wife share an intimacy physically, emotionally, and even spiritually. **Marriage is a gift and a blessing from God!**

2. Children are your primary Mission and Ministry

A second thing that we learn from the Martin and Katie Luther is that your children are your **primary mission and ministry**. Martin and Katie Luther had 6 children. Hans, Elizabeth, Magdalena, Martin Jr., Paul, and Margarete. Both their daughters, Elizabeth and Magdalena, died as little girls. The Luthers also adopted 4 other orphan children.

One of the things that Martin Luther teaches us is that children are a gift from God, and godly parents **intentionally** raise their children in the Christian faith. **Children are your primary mission and ministry!**

To help all parents, Martin Luther wrote the **Small Catechism**. **Martin Luther’s Small Catechism was intentionally written for parents to teach their children the Christian faith**. Parents are to teach their children the 10 Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer; they are to help them memorize these things and learn what they mean. Parents teach their children about Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and how to confess their sins and believe the words of absolution. **Godly parents intentionally raise their children in the Christian faith!**

If you are a parent, then one of the things that you learn from Martin and Katie Luther is that your children are your primary mission and ministry. Fathers and Mothers are the primary teachers of the Christian faith to their children. In a world that pulls our kids in a 1,000 different directions, parents help keep them focused on Christ. To paraphrase Jesus, **“What good is it if your kids gain the whole world, but forfeit their souls?”** **Parents are to be careful, diligent, and intentional about teaching the Christian faith to their children. WE ALL WANT OUR KIDS IN HEAVEN SOMEDAY!** **If you are a parent, then one of the things that you learn from Martin and Katie Luther is that your children are your primary mission and ministry.**

As a congregation, one of our main jobs is to come alongside of you as a parent to help raise your kids in the Christian faith. We do that through Sunday school, youth groups, confirmation classes, Oasis classes, and Trinity Lutheran Preschool and Elementary school.

In fact, if you haven't considered our Trinity Lutheran School for your children, then come by and and take a tour and see what a Lutheran School is all about! We have Childcare, Preschool, and Kindergarten to 8th grade on our campus! Take a tour, and learn how a Lutheran school can change your children's lives for the good!



Someone once said that the “light that shines the farthest shines the brightest right at home.” Let the Light of Christ shine bright in your own home and in your own family. **Carefully and intentionally**, teach your children the Christian faith. *If you are a parent, then one of the things that you learn from Martin and Katie Luther is that your children are your primary mission and ministry.*

ON A SIDE NOTE, If you are a father, take note of this: I recently came across this quote:

Statistically, the single most important factor in whether a child will go to church as an adult is whether the child's father did. Journal of Lutheran Mission | Special Edition 2016 | Published on Dec 15, 2016

Worship is the pulse of our spiritual lives.

Worship is where our kids learn the theological language, the importance of worship practices, the value of Christian fellowship, the joy of giving, the confidence of confessing the faith, and they develop the godly habit of “going to church each week” to gather around the Word and the Sacraments. This is where they grow and mature in the Christian faith; this is where they learn to be **biblically literate**, **doctrinally sound**, **mission minded**, and **passionately engaged disciples**. Parents, faithful, weekly worship is indispensable and crucial to raising your children in the Christian faith. If you are a father, pay especially close attention to this!

One of the things that we learn from Martin and Katie Luther is that your children are your primary mission and ministry.

Marriage and Family is **God's design** and **Gods gift** to most people. It is in the Christian home where the Christian faith is taught and lived in its most intimate setting. **Consider your home a workshop of the Holy Spirit as you grow together as husband, wife, and as a family in the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Martin and Katie Luther remind us that

- 1. Marriage is a Gift and a Blessing from God &**
- 2. Children are your primary Mission and Ministry!**

Amen!