



Reformation 500: Resources for Congregations and Schools

Resources for Pastors

The following resources are new books recently published by NPH.

- ♦ *Reformation 500: The Enduring Relevance of the Lutheran Reformation*

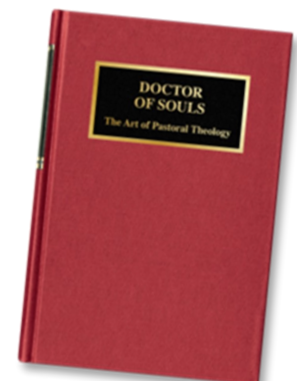
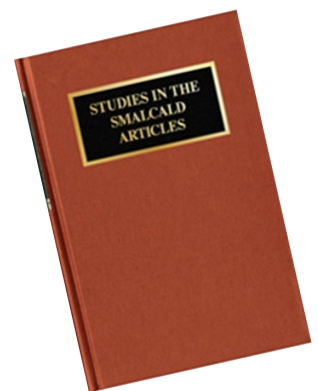
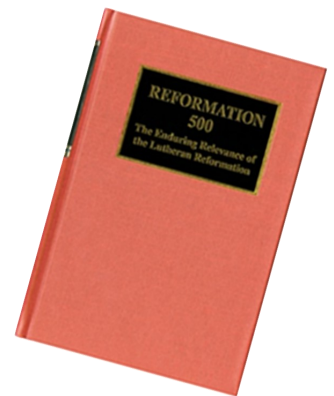
This “festschrift” contains ten essays by a variety of WELS theologians and scholars, including Brenner, Brug, Valleskey, and Deutschlander. The essays range from historical to doctrinal to exegetical. This book could serve as a fine study for a circuit.

- ♦ *Doctor of Souls: The Art of Pastoral Theology*

The Lutheran Reformation was driven by pastoral concerns. How can poor, guilt-ridden sinners find true comfort? They will find it only in Christ, whose work is revealed and whose benefits are given only through the gospel. Written by seminary professor John Schuetze, this book is the new pastoral theology textbook, replacing *The Shepherd under Christ* and *The Counseling Shepherd*. It takes into account new ministry challenges and opportunities faced by 21st century pastors.

- ♦ *Studies in the Smalcald Articles*

John Brenner has edited the series of *Northwestern Lutheran* articles written by sainted Professor John P. Meyer on the Smalcald Articles. This book is a great companion for the study of the Smalcald Articles. It would make an excellent resource for circuit study meetings.

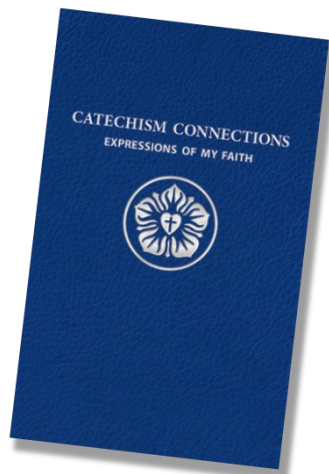


The New Catechism: A Resource for Pastors, Congregations, and Schools



♦ A New Exposition of Luther's Small Catechism

One of Luther's more enduring contributions to the life of the church was his catechism. This new catechism was a collaborative effort of NPH and the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary education department. It is available in both NIV and ESV editions. Written in a more narrative style, the exposition still retains the familiar "question" format. Each of the fifty-one units ends with a "Connections" section, which includes a Bible history lesson with thought questions, a quote from Luther or one of the Lutheran Confessions, and a couple of hymn stanzas. It is ideally suited for family devotions. It could also be used for faculty study. And, of course, it is intended for confirmation instruction. The color-coded tabs and handy size help to make it a resource for Christians of all ages.



♦ *Catechism Connections: Expressions of My Faith*

This companion volume is designed for students to use in confirmation classes. All of the questions are included with space for the students to write the answers. Space is provided for students or families to write down answers to the thought questions in the "Connections" section of each lesson. The students can also take additional notes and write down their assigned memory work. The Scripture passages are not included, allowing pastors to use the Bible translation of their choice for memory work assignments. This has the potential to be a unique and beneficial tool for confirmation instruction.



♦ Catechism diagrams in digital format

The familiar diagrams from Kuske's Catechism have been reworked in the new catechism. They are also available in digital format, both as image files and in PowerPoint slides. The diagrams in digital format also come with most of the words missing so students can fill in the blanks as they take notes or carry out personal study. Currently, NPH has a deal where the purchase of *Catechism Connections: Expressions of My Faith* comes with a free copy of the catechism diagrams. This has the potential to be another excellent and helpful resource for those who teach confirmation classes.

Congregational Bible Study Resources

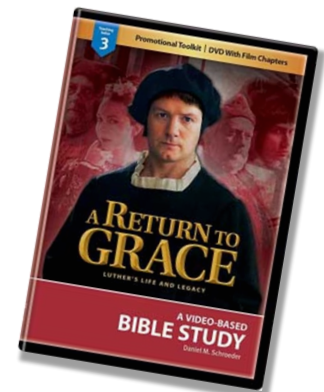
- ◆ *Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*

This feature length production combines the best of a drama and documentary to portray key events in Luther's life and assist viewers to come to understand—just as Luther did—that the only place to turn for truth and comfort for the hurting soul is God's holy Word. It is narrated by Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*) and includes interviews with several WELS pastors and professors, as well as other scholars and church leaders. Congregations may arrange for the showing of this film in local movie theaters. Details are available at wels.newluthermovie.com. A DVD will be available for purchase from NPH in November.



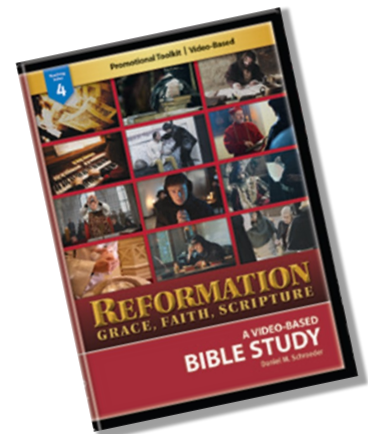
- ◆ *Return to Grace Bible study*

This is a four-lesson Bible study that uses 10-minute video clips from the movie. The four lessons cover grace hidden, grace rediscovered, grace defended, and grace confessed and enduring. The four-lesson format makes it ideal for a Bible study in October or early November. The Bible study kit comes with student outlines and a leader's guide, as well as a promotional toolkit which includes bulletin inserts, social media tools, PowerPoint slides, and website banners.



- ◆ *Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture Bible study*

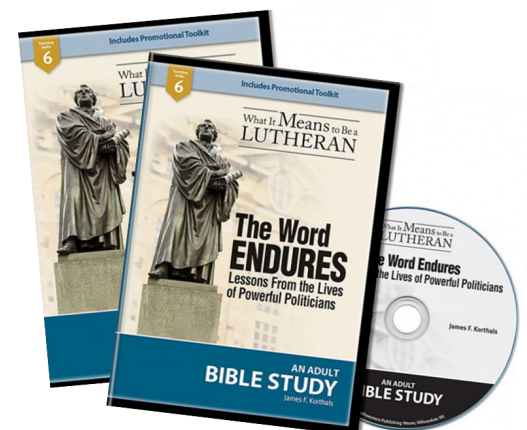
This is a flexible Bible study resource which also uses the new Luther movie. It contains twelve 3-4 minute video vignettes. The study includes a short Bible study and a longer Bible study on each vignette. A congregation could use this resource as a regular Sunday morning Bible study for twelve weeks or use the shorter Bible study for a year's worth of Church Council Bible studies or Bible studies at the beginning of faculty meetings. It also comes with a similar promotional toolkit.



- ◆ *The Word Endures: Lessons from Luther Yesterday and Today*

This is an eight-lesson study on key theological themes of Luther. The study employs many quotes from Luther.

- ◆ *The Word Endures: Lessons from the Lives of Powerful Politicians*



Resources for Personal Growth

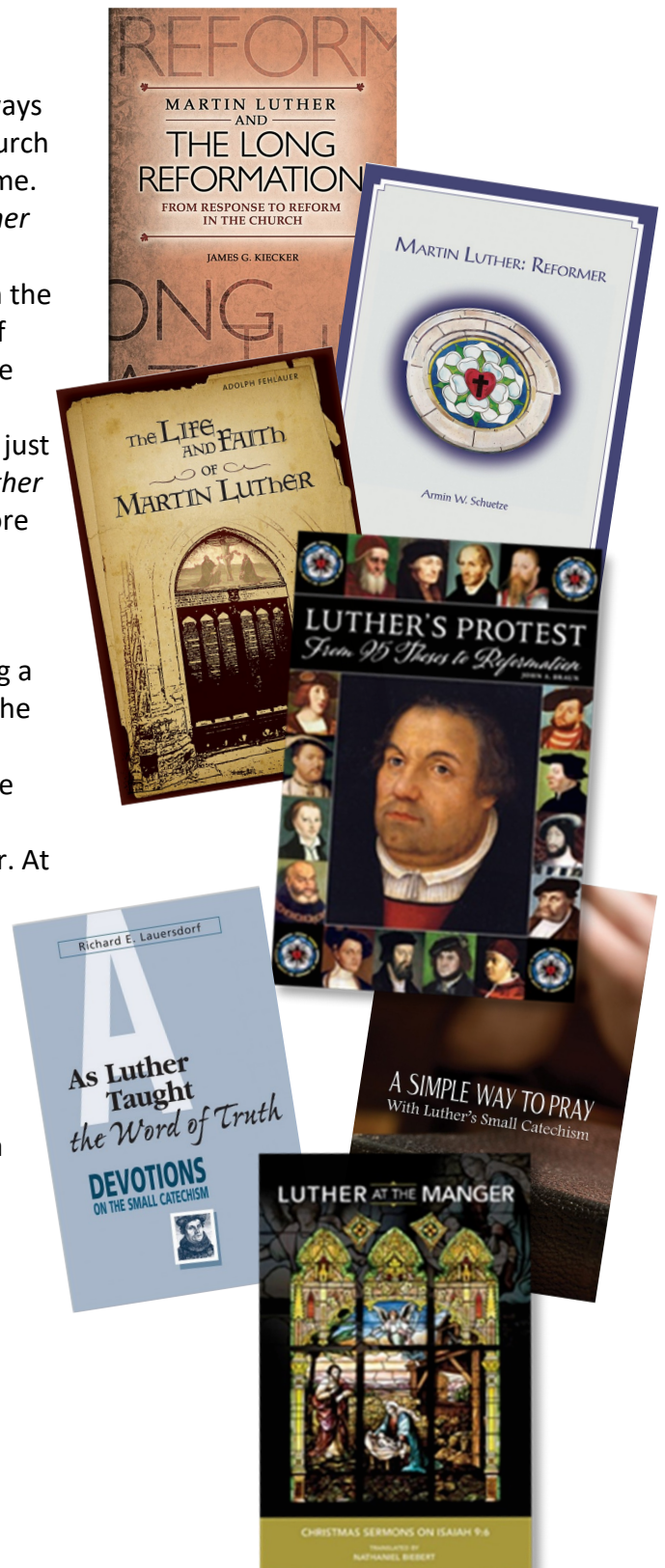
NPH has numerous Reformation-themed resources for use by members and called workers for their personal growth. Let members and staff know about these books. Encourage their use.

♦ Books on Reformation history

The study of history, especially church history, is always valuable. It helps us see how God has blessed his church in the past and teaches us lessons for the present time. Adolph Fehlhauer's *The Life and Faith of Martin Luther* has been updated. With maps and illustrations, it provides a Luther biography accessible to children in the upper grades. *Martin Luther: Reformer* is a reprint of Armin Schuetze's classic book on how Luther became and functioned as the Reformer. It incorporates extensive quotes by Luther. Both of these books are just over 100 pages, making them easy reads. *Martin Luther and the Long Reformation*, by James Kiecker, is a more extensive look at how the Lutheran Reformation fits into the context of the continual reformation of the church. *Luther's Protest: From 95 Theses to Reformation* is a new book by John Braun. Employing a fast-paced style, Braun places Luther's protest into the context of other protests going on simultaneously throughout Europe. He also keeps before readers the theological emphases that drove Luther's protest. Helpful maps and timelines accompany each chapter. At less than 200 pages, it is an easy read for members of all ages.

♦ Reformation-themed devotional books

A Simple Way to Pray offers Luther's helpful advice to his barber on how to pray with the catechism as a starting point. *As Luther Taught the Word of Truth* is Richard Lauersdorf's devotion book on the catechism, a great complement to the new catechism. *Luther at the Manger* is a fresh translation of the five sermons Luther preached at Christmas in 1531. A reading schedule is included so these sermons can be used for Advent or Christmas devotions.



Resources for Lutheran Schools and Families

NPH has provided several Reformation resources for use in schools. Concordia Publishing House also has produced a number of Reformation resources, especially children's books. Consider finding a place in your school's curriculum—and the homes of your families—for a focus on the Reformation anniversary.

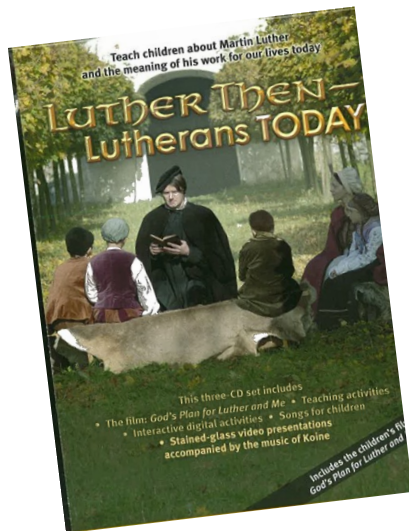


◆ *God's Plan for Luther and Me*

This 25-minute film, aimed at children 8 years old and up, explores Martin Luther's life and work, showing his own deep love for Jesus' little lambs. Passionate about explaining God's Word to all children, including his own, Luther would take time to explain the truth of Scripture, often making a game out of learning. As children see the Reformation come to life in this film, they will also learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian today.

◆ *Lutherans Then—Lutherans Today*

Based on the film *God's Plan for Luther and Me*, this resource enables teachers to teach students about the life of Luther and the meaning of his work for us today. It has classroom activities for two different levels (grades 2-4 and grades 5-8). A CD with seven songs (vocal and accompaniment tracks, as well as sheet music) is included. There are also two stained-glass video presentations accompanied by the music of Koine. Other interactive digital activities are available via a website.



◆ *A "Sola" Christmas*

A "Sola" Christmas, this year's NPH Christmas service kit, pairs the traditional Christmas recitations with the five solas of the Reformation: Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and To God Alone Be the Glory. As your members and visitors hear the narrations and sing the hymns, they will gain a deeper understanding of the connection between these foundational Reformation "solos" and the beautiful Christmas account. The service is flexible and adaptable for a variety of different-sized groups. The convenient kit includes everything you will need to celebrate Christmas with a Reformation theme.

