

# Luther's Rose Suncatcher



Grace alone + Faith alone + Scripture alone

## What was the Reformation all about?

The Reformation was a religious movement in the 1500s that aimed to reform the practices and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther was a pastor and theologian whose writings and teachings played a significant role in bringing about the Reformation. Luther never meant to leave the Roman Catholic Church. He just wanted to teach people the truth Scripture proclaims—that we are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and not because of anything we do (Ephesians 2:8–9).

The church taught that people had to do good works or pay money to earn forgiveness and salvation. Luther knew this went against God's Word. On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed a list of Ninety-Five Theses (statements) to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, arguing against the church's false teachings. Luther's Theses set off years of debate and discussion. In 1521, Luther found himself standing before Emperor Charles V. He was ordered to recant—or take back—his teachings. Luther stood his ground and refused to recant. For him to recant would be to deny the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Luther's Seal

*Martin Luther designed a seal that describes the Christian faith.*

The black cross in the center reminds us that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. The red heart reminds us of the love God has for us in sending Jesus to be our Savior. The red of the heart is the color of the blood of Christ, shed for us and for our salvation. The white rose helps us remember the work of the Holy Spirit, who makes us pure and holy in God's sight by bringing us to faith in Jesus and by helping us live our lives for Him. The sky-blue background helps us picture the joy of the new life God gives to all who believe and trust in Him. Finally, the golden ring outlining the seal reminds us of our eternal inheritance—a home in heaven, where we will enjoy complete joy and happiness in our Savior's presence.