

A Picture of the Lutheran Faith



Martin Luther designed this seal or coat of arms to describe his faith using these symbolic elements: a cross, a heart, a rose, a blue background, and a gold ring. This creates, literally, a picture of his faith. Each color and shape is chosen to specifically communicate an aspect of faith. His explanation reveals the special meaning of each element and what he intended for us to understand about faith...

The Cross

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the red heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believes unto righteousness.'

The Heart

Now, although the cross is black, shameful, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature. In other words, it does not kill but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith -by faith in the Savior.'

The Rose

But this heart is fixed on the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, comfort, and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.

The Blue Background

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored background, to show that such joy of faith in the spirit is but a promise and beginning of heavenly joy to come. This joy, though not yet revealed, is looked forward to and held by the hope which we have.

The Gold Ring

Around this background is a ring, to show that such bliss in heaven is endless. And since the ring is made of gold, the best and most precious metal, it also shows that the bliss of heaven is more precious than all other joys and treasures.