

Selected Lutheran Bibliography

Bible:

The Lutheran Study Bible

Concordia Publishing House

Enough cannot be said about the new Lutheran Study Bible. It is a tool that all must have. The notes are easy to read. There are devotional moments all through the notes. It is a wealth of information for helping you understand the bible and Lutheran theology.

Galatians: Volumes 36 & 37 of Luther's Works

Martin Luther

This epistle is foundational to the Christian faith. If you would grasp what the Gospel is and how to distinguish Law and Gospel then you must put in the time to read these volumes. Not easy reading but essential reading.

Bible Background:

The Word Becoming Flesh: An Introduction to the Origin, Purpose, and Meaning of the Old Testament

Horace D. Hummel

This is not easy reading but does give good background information. Dr. Hummel is a retired Concordia St. Louis professor. I had him for 7 classes and still had a hard time understanding the way he thinks and writes.

The Word of the Lord Grows: An Introduction to the Origin, Purpose, and Meaning of the New Testament

Martin Franzmann

Franzmann is a rare bird. He is a scholar who writes for any person to understand. This is as good as it gets for a New Testament Introduction. It gives very fine historic information and context for the New Testament.

Bible History Commentary

Werner H. Franzmann

Lutheran Confessions:

Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2nd Edition

Concordia Publishing House

The Confessions are what each pastor and each congregation must subscribe to in order to be a pastor or a congregation of the LCMS. We are asked to subscribe to these writings “unconditionally” as a true summary of the doctrines of Scripture. Need I say that ignorance of these documents is not bliss. A strong church needs a laity that knows the

Confessions.

Historical Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions

Gerhard F. Bente

This is very dense reading but for those who want an in depth background to the Lutheran Confessions, this is the book you will need to read. It will take time to get through it but it will bear fruit.

Theology of the Lutheran Confessions

Edmund Schlink

Lutheran Doctrine:

A Summary of Christian Doctrine, 3rd Edition

Edward W.A. Koehler

The Christian Faith

Robert Kolb

Sanctification: Christ in Action

Harold L. Senkbeil

Senkbeil writes for all readers. This book is especially good at helping Lutherans understand what Lutherans believe over against American Evangelicals such as Chuck Swindoll. Swindoll is quoted extensively and the author goes to great pains to show how we differ with this very influential contemporary American Evangelical.

The Spirituality of the Cross

Gene Edward Veith, Jr.

This is one all Lutherans must read and one you can give to non Lutheran and non Christian friends to help them understand what Christianity is and especially what Lutheran Christianity is.

A Theology to Live By: The Practical Luther for Practicing Christians

Herman A. Preus

Why I Am a Lutheran: Jesus at the Center

Daniel Preus

Law and Gospel: How to Read and Apply the Bible

C.F.W. Walther

Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today

John T. Pless

Lift High the Cross: The Theology of Martin Luther

Eugene F. Klug

Lutheran Biography:

Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career, Revised Edition

James M. Kittelson

Luther's World of Thought

Heinrich Bornkamm

Servant of the Word: The Life and Ministry of C.F.W. Walther

August R. Suelflow

Justification and Rome

Robert Preus

This book is for those who want to understand how our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod responded to the joint agreement on justification that was signed by the Roman church and the ELCA. Not simple reading but definitely for those who want to understand the Roman doctrine of justification and how it differs from the Biblical doctrine.

On Being A Theologian of the Cross (Heidelberg Disputation)

Gerhard O. Forde

The Heidelberg Disputation was an early work of Luther in which he began articulating the "theology of the cross." It is must reading to understand what we mean by that phrase.

Church and Ministry

C.F.W. Walther

This is Walther's teaching on what the church is and what the office of the ministry is in the church. Must reading for Lutherans who want to maintain their Lutheran identity.

The Foolishness of God

Siegbert W. Becker

This is a doctoral dissertation by a Wisconsin Synod pastor. This work differentiates Lutheran theology from Reformed theology. This will help you understand why we are not Reformed but Lutheran. The role of reason in theology is the subject of this work and it is very good. Must reading for advanced readers.

Law and Gospel: Foundation of Lutheran Ministry

Robert J. Koester

Must reading for Lutherans as we struggle to find ourselves in the sea of American Evangelicalism. This will help you understand how the Law Gospel distinction is critical to our self understanding in our day. This is a more popular style read and good for any reader.

Luther's Theology of the Cross

Alister E. McGrath

A scholarly work by a leading Luther scholar aimed at helping us understand what the theology of the cross is as taught by Luther. It is must reading for advanced readers.

Pastoral Theology

C.F.W. Walther

Loving God with All Your Mind

Gene Edward Veith, Jr.

Martin Luther: Learning for Life

Marilyn J. Harran

This is a work aimed at sifting through Luther's understanding of education, his vision

for what Lutheran education is.

Christian Fiction:

Pontius Pilate

Paul L. Maier

The Flames of Rome

Paul L. Maier

Devotional Reading:

Reading the Psalms with Luther

Martin Luther

God Grant It

C.F.W. Walther

Meditations on Divine Mercy

Johann Gerhard,

Trans. Matthew C. Harrison

Treasury of Daily Prayer

Concordia Publishing House

Luther's Prayers

Ed. Herbert F. Brokering

Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today

John W. Kleinig

This is a great, simple read that all should read. He has a grasp on prayer and worship that few have managed and communicates it in a simple manner. Please read this book!

Dying to Live

Harold L. Senkbeil

Liturgy and Worship:

*Worshiping with Angels and Archangels: An Introduction
to the Divine Service*

Concordia Publishing House

*Ordering Our Days in His Peace: An Introduction to the
Christian Church Year*

Concordia Publishing House

Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service

Arthur A. Just, Jr.

Gathered Guests, 2nd Edition

Timothy H. Maschke

Collected Essays

At Home in My Father's House

Matthew Harrison

This is a huge volume of essays by past Presidents of the LC-MS. I have only read three of the essays so far but if we are to maintain Lutheran identity in the sea of American Evangelicalism, these essays are critical. We have to know our roots and be at home with our LC-MS fathers. In this way we will not be absorbed into the Evangelical culture of America.

Non Lutheran Authors Worth Reading

What's So Amazing About Grace?

Philip Yancey

Where is God When it Hurts?

Philip Yancey

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

Eugene H. Peterson

Traveling Light

Eugene H. Peterson

Run With the Horses

Eugene H. Peterson

Under the Unpredictable Plant

Eugene H. Peterson

Answering God

Eugene H. Peterson