

An Explanation of Martin Luther's Shield



Martin Luther designed his famous “Luther Seal” or “Luther Rose” at a time when heraldry was the custom. Shields painted with flashy colors and symbols were a common sight. The royal dynasty, mighty city, proud merchant guild, worthy family and bold knight all made use of a “coat of arms.”

Experience taught Martin Luther that his life was a battle between God and the devil. They were both fighting for his heart. Martin said he would paint his shield like this:

Black Cross The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross.

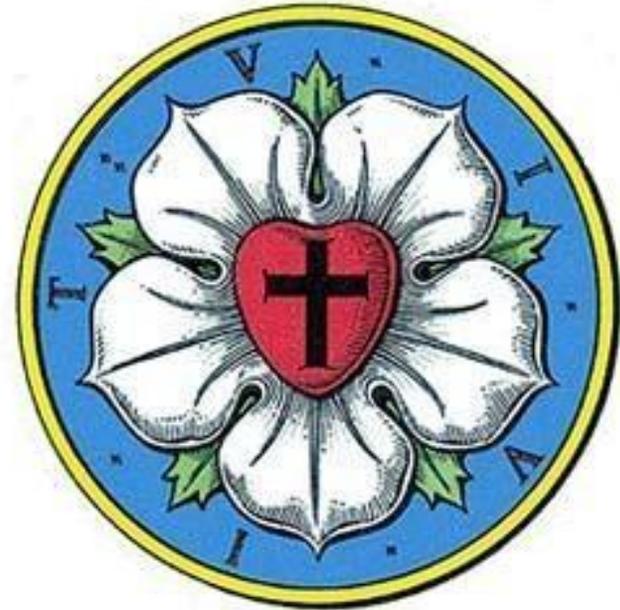
Red Heart Faith in Christ crucified saves us. Even though the cross is black, brings death, and causes pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart.

White Rose This heart will stand in the middle of a white rose. This will show that faith gives joy, comfort and peace. Faith, however, does not give peace and joy in proportion to what is tangible and visible. Therefore this rose is white, not red.

Blue Sky This rose, furthermore, stands in a sky-blue background. This shows that such joy in spirit and faith is but a beginning of heavenly joy.

Gold Circle Around all this shall be a golden ring, to show that such happiness in heaven lasts forever, has no end, goes beyond all joys and treasures ... just as gold is the most precious metal.

*“A Christian’s heart rests on roses
because it stands under the cross.”*



***Martin Luther's Shield:
5 symbols, 5 colors***

***cross, heart, rose, sky, ring:
Christ, me, forgiveness, heaven, endless***

A Mystery Sharp-eyed persons may have noticed some letters hidden in the background. They read V-I-V-I-T. That is an important clue in the Latin language. The word means “He lives.” Christ for me!

*maybe a  bold symbol
can still catch somebody's imagination ...
and inspire us when life is a hard battle?*