

Ever-Reforming: A Reformation study

A central part of the Reformation 500 commemoration in 2016-2017 is a synod-wide, cross-generational parish education curriculum called *Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Cross-Generational Study*. Edited by Mindy Makant and Eric Childers, this 44-session study was written by a variety of authors across the synod.

The scope of *Ever-Reforming* is broad, covering a thorough sampling of the Lutheran tradition. The study is designed in four week units. It begins with an overview of Reformation history; sessions that will help us understand how we got where we are today. This is followed by a more in-depth look at the personal side of the Reformation with four sessions on different aspects of Martin Luther's persona, followed by four sessions that look at the person of Katie Luther and the life that Martin and Katie lived together.

The study then shifts to a four-week study of the theological foundations of Lutheranism. This theological study leads us into a study of our worship and hymnody. And our worship, of course, leads us out into the world, so we conclude the theological portion of the study by looking at four of the ELCA's most recent social statements.

After this, the next four week series turns our attention to the Lutheran Church in the United States. This is followed by a focus on the work of the NC synod—what are we doing as church right now?

Our study ends by looking forward. One of the key teachings of the Reformation is that the church is *always* reforming. Until Christ's return we will never yet be who we are called to be. So, our final four sessions will challenge us to imagine the church of the future and to ask ourselves where we continue to be in need of re-formation.

Ever-Reforming is intended to be utilized. The lessons are accessible, engaging, and worthwhile. While *Ever-Reforming* is intended to be taught for a wide audience—from middle schoolers to seasoned church members—we also have intended the study to be led by a wide range of facilitators. *Ever-Reforming* has been designed and written in way that people without seminary preparation can easily and successfully lead each lesson.

The editors have also paid close attention to convenience and "teachability." Once the curriculum posted on our synod's [Reformation 500 web page](#), the facilitator or facilitators of *Ever-Reforming* can easily print copies of each lesson (all fit on a single front-and-back sheet of paper) for participants. Then the group can walk through the material together with the help of a facilitator. It's really that simple.

Please consider using *Ever-Reforming* in your congregation this year. The complete study is available at no charge at www.nclutheran.org.

--Pr. Eric Childers, chair of the NC Synod Reformation 500 Task Force