

A LUTHERAN WELCOME TO FORGIVENESS



Illustrations and Hand-Lettered Text
from the Works of Daniel Erlander

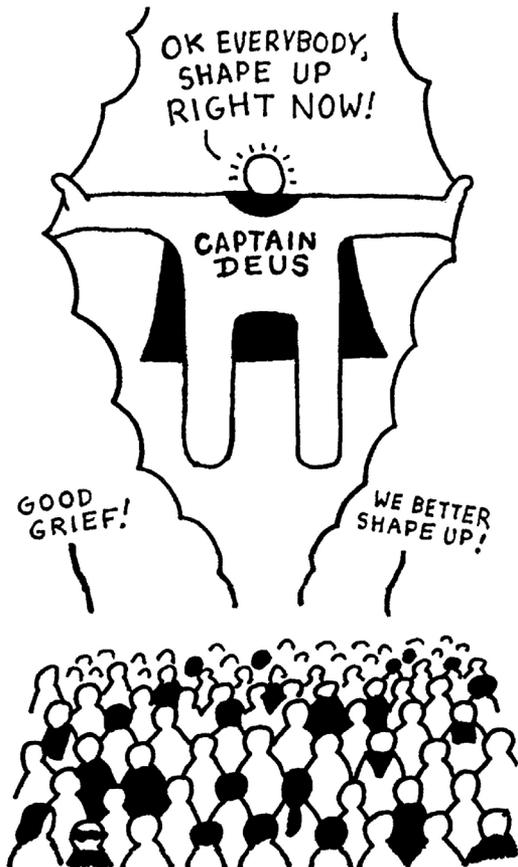
Themes and Additional Content by
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God Comes to Us

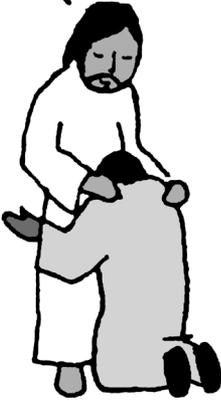
God has chosen not to abandon the world and its creatures to the consequences of sin. Instead, God comes to remake us from the inside out.

Lutheran Christians understand that the problem of sin is not something we can fix. Although we are the ones who got ourselves into this mess, we are not able to get ourselves out. Our efforts to fix things only make them worse, widening the distance between God and us, and between us and others.

If the problem of separation from God is to be solved, it will have to happen from God's side of the gap. God comes to us to address the brokenness of sin. Rather than using displays of supernatural power to compel our obedience and remake the world through force, God has chosen (and continues to choose) another way.



Your
sins
are
forgiven.



God has chosen a path of mending that works within the world.

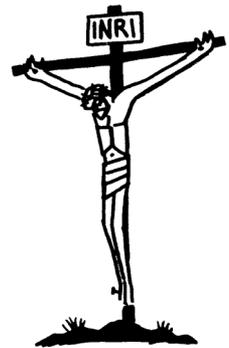
The Bible bears witness to God's centuries-long calling and care of humanity, and to God's ongoing efforts to heal the rifts opened by sin's separations. Lutherans believe God desires a relationship with human beings in which we are something other than puppets or pets.

The Bible also recounts our willful blindness and repeated refusals to respond to God's calling and commandments with trust and obedience.

We do not find God. **God finds us.**

Lutheran Christians believe God addressed the separation caused by sin by stepping toward us in the wholly human body of Jesus. In the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God reveals the terms of our relationship: forgiveness and life instead of debt and obligation.

In Jesus, God moves into the messes we have made. God's love closes the distance between us, filling that space with the word of forgiveness.



Here God is passionately involved. Here God shares our humanity.