

# **BAPTIZED, WE LIVE**

## **LUTHERANISM AS A WAY OF LIFE**



**DANIEL ERLANDER**

Daniel Erlander Publications  
[www.danielerlander.com](http://www.danielerlander.com)



When we are confronted by religious language which we do not hear in our Lutheran pulpits, we wonder if Lutheran pastors are really preaching the Bible.

Often confused about our identity, unable to answer questions about our tradition and sometimes wanting our congregations to copy, without question, what is popular in the religious marketplace, we need to ask...

## What is Lutheran Christianity?

This booklet represents an attempt to answer this question in a manner which avoids defining Lutheranism as primarily a system of doctrines. In contrast, the words and pictures in this booklet focus on Lutheranism as a **WAY** -

A WAY OF SEEING  
A WAY OF HEARING  
A WAY OF TEACHING  
A WAY OF FOLLOWING



You may notice that many of the characteristics of the Lutheran\* way described in this booklet are also traits of other Christian traditions. This fact reminds us that Lutherans have no monopoly on certain ways of being Christian. However, this booklet suggests that the total of characteristics discussed is the Lutheran way. Happy reading, looking and struggling!

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\* The term "Lutheran" was probably first used by Martin Luther's enemies to label his followers. In 1522 Luther attacked this use of his name desiring that all followers of Christ simply be called "Christians." The name stuck, so we who are part of the movement he began are called "Lutherans."

The symbol pictured on this page is "Luther's Seal" - a black cross within a red heart on a white rose surrounded by a blue field and a gold border.