October Kid’s Crafts

Craft 1 – Reformation Church

“All who believed were together and had all things in common, they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” Acts 2:44-47

“Now the church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ.”—Martin Luther

Martin Luther was a monk a very long time ago who loved God and the church very much. But he saw that the leaders of the church were not helping people who needed it and were acting in ways they shouldn’t. Martin Luther wrote what we call the “95 Theses.” The 95 Theses was a list of 95 things he wanted the church to change to make it better. He wanted everyone to see his list, so he nailed it right on the church door! Another word for change is “reform.”

Eventually, Martin Luther left the church and began a new church that would try to do things better, and that’s why we have Lutherans today! We call the start of that new church the “Reformation” because it started when Luther wanted to reform or change the church. We celebrate “Reformation Sunday” every year in October to remember when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door.

Today, you’re going to use construction paper to make your church—and you’ll get to put 95 Theses right on the door just like Martin Luther did! When you make this craft, think about how much you love your church, and think about ways your church could change or reform to be better. Say a prayer asking God to help everyone in your church to always show God’s love.

Included Supplies:

* Assorted paper

Other Supplies:

* Markers
* Scissors
* Glue or tape

Instructions:

* You were provided 4 sheets of construction paper. One of those pieces is white. Set the white sheet aside for now. Choose one of the other colors to be your church. Using scissors, make your church shaped how you want it. You can make it look like pictures of the church you go to, or a different church. Decide if you want your church to be tall or short, skinny or wide. Some churches have towers for bells to ring. You can make your church look how you want!
* Use another color of construction paper to make a roof for your church and anything else you want to add, like a tower or chimney, and glue or tape those to your church.
* With a grownup’s help, cut out a shape in your church for windows and, most importantly, a door. Then, glue your church onto the white piece of construction paper. The white construction paper should show in the places where you cut the holes in your church for the window and door.
* Some churches have stained glass windows. You can see examples of stained-glass windows on the internet if a grownup helps you look. Maybe you remember what the windows look like in your church. You can color your windows with markers.
* Use the remaining piece of construction paper to make a door for your church. Have a grownup help you make sure that the piece you cut for the door is a little bit wider (about half an inch) than the hole for the door on your church.
* Fold about a half-inch tab on one side of your door. Glue or tape the tab to the place where the door goes on your church—your door should be able to open and close, but you might need to wait for the glue to dry before you open it or close it!
* Using one last small piece of remaining construction paper, cut a rectangle and pretend to be Martin Luther. Pretend to write some of the 95 Theses on the paper and glue or tape that to your door.
* Finally, don’t forget to open your door and draw yourself and your church family inside your church!

Craft 2 – Apple Trees

Legend has it that Martin Luther said, “If I knew the world was to end tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today.”

Luther knew that with God there is always hope. Because Jesus died and was resurrected (which means that he came back from the dead and was alive again) we know that God always brings new life and we have hope in that life. That’s what Luther was saying about the apple tree. He would plant his apple tree because he believed in the life that God brings into our world and he would always have hope in that life! Luther thought that even if the world were to end it would still be worth it to plant the apple tree and see it grow because God could still do something good through that apple tree!

The legend of this Martin Luther quote means that the apple tree is a symbol of hope in God. When we see an apple tree or an apple we remember what Paul says in Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Today, we are making our own apple trees to remember the hope we always have in God!

* What’s your favorite way to eat apples? Apple cider, apple pie, fresh apple slices?
* Our dinner prayer this month gives thanks for the foods (like apples) that God gives us. Say a prayer thanking God for your favorite foods and asking God to help everyone in the world have enough food to eat.
* When we have hope in God it means that we believe that God always does good things in the world. What is a good thing you see in the world? Examples: friends helping each other or people wearing masks to keep each other safe.

Supplies Provided:

* Green Tissue paper
* Red pompoms

Other Supplies:

* Paper towel or toilet paper roll
* Scissors
* Glue

Instructions:

* Have an adult help you cut the top of the paper towel roll into strips like tree branches
* Tear or cut the green tissue paper into small pieces (about 1 square inch)
* Glue the tissue paper pieces to the tree branches on your paper towel roll to make leaves
* Glue the red pom poms onto the tree branches to make apples
* Admire your apple tree and always have hope in God!