

Resilient Lutherans: Insights from Church History

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Resilient Lutherans

Lutherans have rich examples of putting faith into action in times of adversity

Global resilience in personal support, art, pastoral imagination, social service, and peacebuilding

Personal Support

The Lutherans as 'Partners in calamities:' ups and downs of family life, plague, and exile

Support from friends: Luther and Bugenhagen (Pomeranus) in 1527 (LW 54:15-16)

Art: Three Lutheran Poets of 17th century

Philipp Nicolai: Survivor of war, plague, and religious exiles; author of "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (1598, ELW #308); dedicated to Wilhelm Ernst, Count and Lord of Waldeck

Juraj Tranvoský: refugee of Thirty Years' War, hymnist for Czech, Slovak, Polish Lutherans "Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved" (1636, ELW #602)

Anna Sophia II von Hesse-Darmstadt: "Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth" (1658, *The Lutheran Hymnal*, #296, verse 3)

Adaptive Leaders, Pastoral Imagination

Functional institutions: Muhlenberg in colonial PA, Loehe's 'emergency seminary'

Gospel in context: Mittelholzer in Guyana, Nommensen in Sumatra

Translating the message: Nesib, translator & preacher in Ethiopia

Social Servants

Theodor Fliedner, founder of Kaiserswerth Deaconess House

Elizabeth Fedde, Norwegian deaconess; founded hospitals in Brooklyn and Minneapolis

Anna Kugler, medical missionary to India from Ministerium of Pennsylvania

Blessed are the Peacemakers (Some Lutheran Nobel Peace Prize laureates)

Nathan Söderblom and Dag Hammarskjöld: leaders of church and society

Albert Schweitzer: pastor, organist, New Testament scholar, medical missionary

Norman Borlaug: "the man who saved a billion lives"

Leymah Gbowee: helped organize women to end Liberia's civil war

Faithful & Resilient

- Mutual support in times of trial
- Passionate use of the arts
- Adaptive, imaginative leadership for new contexts
- Social service to neighbors
- Courage to claim and share Christ's love

Conclusion: We have resources and friends in the gospel, even and especially in hard times