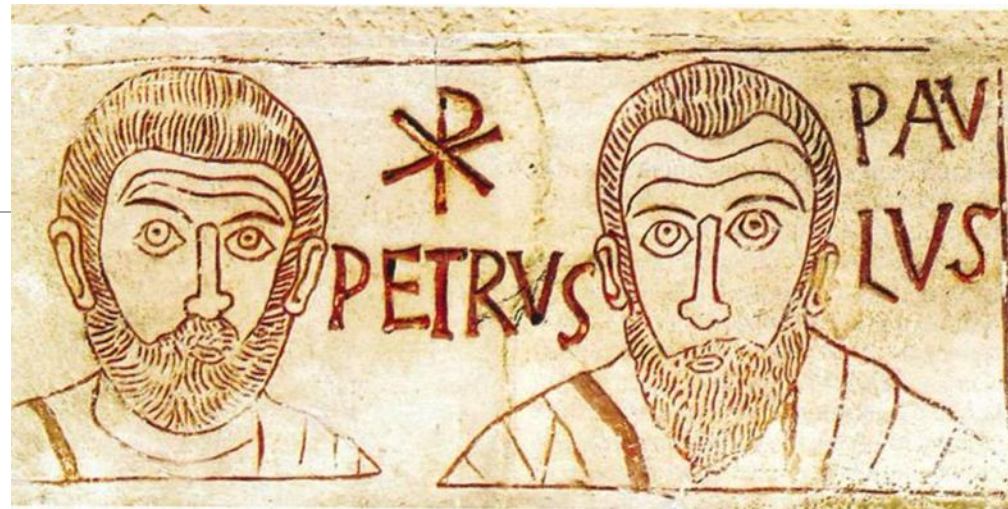


A History of Faith

HOW HISTORY HELPS US LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH



Biblical Direction for Thinking Historically

Hebrews 11-12 – the past as inspiration

1 Corinthians 9-10 – the past as warning

Lesson 1. The Church is Big ... and Old



Ancient Christian imagery: angel, the Good Shepherd, and the Chi-Rho

Justin Martyr – *Apology* (c. 155)

And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons.

Justin Martyr – *Apology* (c. 155)

And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who [cares for] the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead.

Lesson 2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful



Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Those who long to complete God's works must always bear in mind that they are fragile vessels, for they are only human. ... They can only sing the mysteries of God like a trumpet, which only returns a sound but does not function unassisted, for it is Another who breathes into it that it might give forth a sound....

Lesson 2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful



Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

O my daughter, may God make you a mirror of life. I too cower in the puniness of my mind, and am greatly wearied by anxiety and fear. Yet from time to time I resound a little, like a dim sound of a trumpet from the Living Light. May God help me, therefore, to remain in his service.

Lesson 2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful



Nikolaus Ludwig Count von Zinzendorf
(1700-1769) and Herrnhut (below)



Lesson 2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful



John Wesley (1703-1791)

This being my birth-day, the first day of my seventy-second year, I was considering, How is this, that I find just the same strength as I did thirty years ago? That my sight is considerably better now, and my nerves firmer than they were then? That I have none of the infirmities of old age, and have lost several I had in my youth?

Lesson 2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful



John Wesley (1703-1791)

The grand cause is, the good pleasure of God, who doth whatever pleaseth him. The chief means are, 1. my constantly rising at four, for about fifty years; 2. my generally preaching at five in the morning, one of the most healthy exercises in the world; 3. my never travelling less, by sea or land, than four thousand five hundred miles a year.

Lesson 3. The Church is Fallen ... and Unfaithful

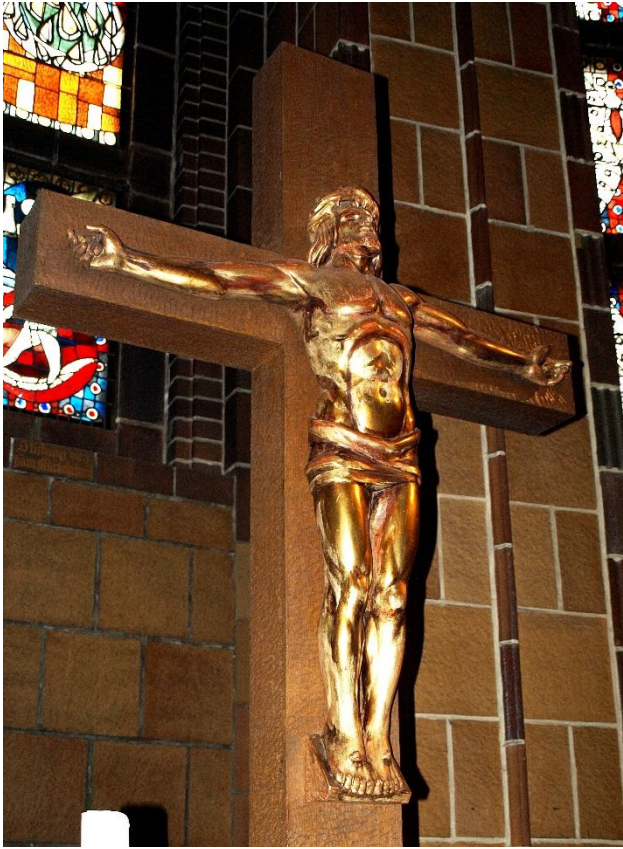


Martin Luther Memorial Church, Berlin

Martin Luther Memorial Church



Martin Luther Memorial Church



A History of Faith

1. The Church is Big ... and Old
2. The Church is Faith-Filled ... and Faithful
3. The Church is Fallen ... and Unfaithful