Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As A Way Of Life
I was handed this book by a woman Lutheran pastor when I visited her church and asked for more information about what Lutherans believe. Wow! This book is sooo uplifting, happy, refreshingly un-churchy. If you can picture Charles Shultz’s Snoopy reincarnated as a Lutheran minister and writing about what he believes in....you’re getting close to what this book is like. My copy is 8 inches by ll and only 28 pages (more like a workbook in appearance). But turn the cover and you enter a pre-printing press monk’s version of a multi-media event. (You have to open the cover to understand what I’m trying to express.) Erlander has hand printed, and hand illustrated all over the place, the entire book. He apparently writes like this all the time (he summarized the whole Bible this way and called it "Manna and Mercy: A brief history of God's unfolding promise to mend the entire universe"...also 5 stars). Who but the reincarnation of Snoopy would take on the whole Bible with one pencil and a ream of blank paper?Erlander doesn’t really write at all: he explodes in joy (illustrated joy). And in love, inclusiveness, acceptance, and in awe of God. Example: "God does not despise flesh. He dwelled in the flesh of Jesus and he dwells in flesh today. The ruler of the universe hides himself in the common, in the stuff of this earth. God lives in creation; He lives in all. Therefore, we see God in all..." (Erlander's note:) " 'Flesh' in this context refers to the human body--bones, muscles, organs, etc. and, in a wider sense, the material world. The goodness of matter is affirmed in Genesis I and, abover all, in the birth of Jesus as God in flesh. When Paul talks
about 'flesh' in Romans', he is not talking about matter but a will that is directed away from God. We need to understand the difference between these two uses of 'flesh' in order to avoid the unbiblical idea that matter is evil." And then further on: "We are Christians because God surprised us." This inclusiveness extends to ecumenism as well: "We are catholic Christians, members of the universal and apostolic church, one family in Christ by Baptism. We pray for and work for the unity of the whole church on earth, longing for the day when the Holy Spirit will gather all Christians into a single body, a people who will be ONE. AS JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE ONE." But the words alone don't give a true idea of the book....the reader has to open the covers and join in the multi-media experience created from one pencil and one gentle mind that obviously has spent time laughing first hand with God.

This great book is worth it's weight in gold (and that's $4.50 worth of gold on Daniel's website, shhhhh) for individual use, for kids, for a whole family event, new members, old member, pre-baptismal... Would give it 10 stars if I could.

This was shipped to a friend in Colorado, who entered the hospital before it was delivered. She doesn't know if it is there. The booklet is great, I read it at church, and the delivery is probably fine.

Wonderful and concise, well illustrated handbook on Lutheranism. Great for confirmation review and new member classes. Well worth the price.


This amazing book works well for new members and young adults. But, wow, is it seriously overpriced here. Erlander's website has a much more reasonable price.

MY PASTOR GAVE ME THE IDEA TO READ THIS BOOKLET. THIS IS SO GOOD I BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN WOULD ENJOY THE MESSAGE.

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