



**United
Lutheran
Seminary**

Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

Monday,
October 27,
2025

ULS Gettysburg
Campus or via
livestream.

Registration fee:
\$20

Lunch fee: \$20

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Marking the 500th Anniversary of the 1525 Peasant Revolt

Annual Luther Colloquy

The 1525 Peasant Revolt was a widespread uprising of German peasants who, inspired in part by the Reformation's emphasis on spiritual freedom, demanded social and economic reforms. Initially sympathetic to their plight, Martin Luther ultimately condemned the revolt when it turned violent, urging the nobility to restore order. His harsh response in *Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants* damaged his reputation among the lower classes and revealed the limits of his revolutionary zeal. The revolt marked a turning point in Luther's life and work, solidifying his alignment with political authorities and shaping the future of a more conservative, state-supported Lutheranism.

Speakers



Volker Leppin, Horace Tracy Pitkin Professor of Historical Theology, Yale Divinity School. Leppin's scholarship centers on the intellectual and spiritual transformations from the late medieval world into the Reformation, with particular emphasis on scholasticism, mysticism, and Martin Luther. He is best known for his "transformation thesis," arguing that the Reformation arose as an evolution—not a radical break—from medieval traditions. His influential biography *Martin Luther: A Late Medieval Life* (English translation 2017) portrays Luther as deeply rooted in medieval spirituality—eschewing nationalistic myth in favor of source-critical historical analysis.



R. Guy Erwin, President, United Lutheran Seminary, Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair in Reformation Studies. Erwin earned his BA in history from Harvard University in 1980, and subsequently pursued two master's degrees and a PhD at Yale University, where his doctoral work centered on late-medieval roots of Luther's theology of the cross. From 1993 to 1999, he lectured in church history and historical theology at the Yale Divinity School.