LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER

Born: 1472 | Kronach, Germany
Died: 1553 | Weimar, Germany

While Luther, Melanchthon and others led the charge of the Reformation with their writings, Lucas Cranach aided the cause through the use of images, specifically paintings and woodcuts. Luther grew close to him when they became colleagues in the publication of Luther's writings and pamphlets, most notably his Small Catechism and German translation of the Bible. Cranach's lasting appeal is multifaceted because of his unique contributions to late-Renaissance painting, while also being a successful business man and local Wittenberg politician. Cranach became an important part of Luther's personal life as they served as godparents for each other's children.

Artist, businessman and friend, we see Cranach as a man who exemplified Luther's doctrine of vocation: that all stations in life are necessary for society and are God-pleasing.

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