
Olavus Petri, the Church Reformer of Sweden

Forsander Nils

Title: Olavus Petri, the Church Reformer of Sweden

Author: Forsander Nils

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BUST OF OLAVUS PETRI. MODELED BY JEAN LE VEAU.

OLAVUS PETRI

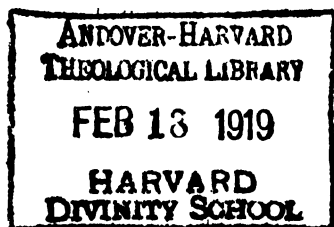
THE CHURCH REFORMER OF SWEDEN

BY

NILS FORSANDER



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*To my Former Students in the Augustana
Theological Seminary*

B*Y God's grace alone are we justified and have eternal life, when in humble faith we behold Jesus, the Lamb of God, and follow Him. Thus we have cause also to cherish in grateful remembrance those of His servants who have preached His gospel in its purity to our fathers and to us. Hence it behooves us as a Lutheran people, for the better observance of their doctrines and precepts, to keep a steady eye on our great teacher Martin Luther at all times, and to give second place in our esteem to that foremost champion of Church Reformation in our Swedish fatherland—Olavus Petri.*

In remembrance of our studies in Church History and Pastoral Theology, please accept, dear brethren, this guide to the life and teachings of the Swedish Reformer, Olavus Petri, "preacher of the Word of God." Brief as it is, it has been drawn from the best of historic sources. To Mr. Ernst W. Olson, for his services in rendering the manuscript into English, my grateful acknowledgment is due.

The work of Olavus Petri, this man of God, is more especially called to mind this year, the four hundredth from the time of his return to his beloved home land, from the halls of learning where Luther taught.

Yours, in the fellowship of Jesus Christ,

NILS FORSANDER.

Rock Island, Ill., Feb. 10, 1918, the four hundredth anniversary of the conferring the degree of Master of Arts upon Olavus Petri at Wittenberg.



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INTRODUCTION

THE Lutheran Church is dear to our hearts. We call ourselves Lutherans, not merely because of the fathers and teachers of this Church and the faith that was in them, but chiefly because Luther and his co-workers preached the pure and unfalsified gospel of Christ for the salvation of souls and administered the sacraments in the form and spirit implied by Him at the time of their institution, according to the same gospel. Christ is our Lord and Saviour, and in His name are we baptized; yet we are not ashamed to call ourselves Lutherans, inasmuch as that name stands for our belief in and confession of the doctrine preached by Luther unto repentance and faith in the forgiveness of sins through Christ. Luther and his co-laborers in the evangelical Reformation of the Church confessed themselves poor sinners saved by grace alone for Christ's sake and justified by faith in Him. Therefore these servants of God are very dear to us and esteemed worthy of being cherished in ever faithful remembrance.