

# The Scandinavian Reformers

In the Scandinavian countries the Reformation was accomplished peacefully as Lutheranism spread northward from Germany. The monarchical governments of Denmark and Sweden themselves sponsored the reform movement and broke completely with the papacy.

## Sweden Christian II (1513-1522) Gustavus I Vasa (1523-1560)

In Sweden the brothers Olaus Petri and Laurentius Petri led the movement for the adoption of Lutheranism as the state religion. The adoption was effected in 1529 with the support of Gustav I Vasa, king of Sweden, and by the decision of the Swedish diet.

### **Olavus Petri (Olaf Peterson) (1493-1573)**

Swedish OLOF PETERSSON, Lutheran churchman who, with his brother Laurentius, played a decisive role in the reformation of the Swedish church. He studied at Wittenberg (1516-18) and absorbed the reformed teaching of Martin Luther and Philipp Melancthon. When Gustavus Vasa was crowned king in 1523, Olaus had already attracted attention and criticism by his preaching. The Roman Catholic hierarchy was hostile to the King, who became a supporter of the reformed teaching.

During the reign of Gustavus Vasa, Olaus rose in prominence and served briefly as chancellor (1531). Later, because he opposed the autocratic policy of the King, he fell from favour and was condemned to death in 1540, the sentence being remitted for a heavy fine. He regained favor, however, and was appointed pastor of Storkyrkan (the Cathedral of St. Nicholas) in Stockholm. Olaus provided most of the literature for the Swedish Reformation movement, including a Swedish New Testament, hymnbook, church manual, the Swedish liturgy, and many homiletical and polemical writings. His Chronicle is an important historical document.



### **Laurentius Petri (Lawrence Peterson)**

Swedish LARS PETERSSON, Lutheran churchman, a leader of the Protestant Reformation in Sweden and the first Protestant archbishop of Uppsala (1531-73). His influence was very great, although he was less dynamic and forceful than his brother Olaus. The Swedish Bible of 1541, for which he was principally responsible, was as important for Swedish life and literature as Luther's German translation was for the German-speaking peoples. His kyrkoordning (church order) of 1571 defined the practice of the church, particularly its relation to government. It went far toward establishing the independence of the church from the crown, which has been characteristic of most of the history of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

## Timeline for Olavus Petri

- 1593 – Born to a blacksmith and his wife
- 1516-18 Studied at Wittenberg – got his Masters – Gradual move to Lutheran ideas
- 1520 - King Christian II orders the "Stockholm Bloodbath"
- 1522 - Following a revolt of the Nobles against King Christian II in
- 1523 - Gustavus Vasa becomes King.
- 1524 - Served as a Clerk in Stockholm, began preaching
- 1525 - Marries with some controversy, but it was allowed by the King
- 1527 - Wrote Useful Instruction, Did the first Swedish Translation of the New Testament . Wrote Answers to Twelve Questions (in preparation for a disputation never held with PederGalle)
- Diet of Vasteras – King Frederick declares only the "pure Word of God" is to be preached, along with curtaining the power of the Bishops and appropriate much of Church's wealth.
- 1531 - Olavus Petri's brother, Laurentius Petri made Arch-Bishop at the age of 33, would serve admirably for 40 years – with significant influence on the Swedish Reformation
- 1536 - Synod at Uppsala
- 1537 - Olavus Petri's sermon against cursing causes King Gustavus 1 to shift away from Lutheranism
- 1539-44 "German Period" German Lutheran views have strong influence through George Norman
- 1540 - Olavus Petri and Laurentius Andrae condemned and then pardoned
- 1541 - Olavus Petri serves as a parish priest Vasa Bible published by Petri brothers.
- 1544 - Diet of Vasteras – Sweden officially made a Protestant and Evangelical kingdom. The Bishops reduced to uperintendents, Throne made hereditary.
- 1552 - Olavus Petri dies.
- 1553 - George Norman Dies
- 1560 - King Gustavus dies – Laurentius Petri maintains the Swedish Lutheran "middle way".
- 1572 - Synod at Uppsala – Bible made Confession, German Lutheran confessions rejected.
- 1573 - Laurentius Petri dies

# Denmark Christian II (1513-1523) Frederick I (1523-1533) (Power struggle) Christian III (1536-1559)

Hans Tausen, was the "Luther of Denmark." In 1536 a national assembly held in Copenhagen abolished the authority of the Roman Catholic bishops throughout Denmark and the then subject lands of Norway and Iceland; and Christian III, king of Denmark and Norway, invited Luther's friend, the German religious reformer Johann Bugenhagen, to organize in Denmark a national Lutheran church on the basis of the Augsburg Confession.

## Hans Tausen (1494 - 1561)

Religious Reformer known as "the Danish Luther" for his major role in bringing the Reformation to Denmark. Originally a Roman Catholic, Tausen became a monk in the order of Knights Hospitalers at Antvorskov, near Slagelse, and studied and taught (1516-21) at Rostock and at Copenhagen (1521-22). At the University of Louvain in 1522, he encountered Flemish humanism and became a language scholar, acquiring a knowledge of both Greek and Hebrew.

The next year Tausen went to Wittenberg, where he studied under Luther. His superiors recalled him to Denmark in 1525 because of his growing sympathy with the Reformation, and at Viborg, in Jutland, he was briefly confined in his order's priory. From his prison he preached to the people assembled outside until his prior lent him the pulpit of the church. Soon, Tausen joined with citizens of Viborg in securing a local church for services that included hymns sung in Danish rather than in Latin. The manuals for church services that he published were of great importance in creating a Reformed liturgy in Denmark. Having left his order, in 1526 he was made a Lutheran chaplain by King Frederick I.

Tausen was transferred to Copenhagen in 1529 and rapidly furthered the Reformation as well as his own reputation as a preacher. After the death of Frederick I in 1533, however, he was accused of blasphemy by Bishop Joachim Rønnow and expelled from the dioceses of Sjælland and Skåne. The citizens then rose in arms against the bishop, who might have been murdered but for Tausen's intervention. Bishop Rønnow rescinded his condemnation, permitting Tausen to preach in the diocese on condition that he moderate his tone. After the final triumph of the Reformation in Denmark in 1536, Tausen was made a lecturer of Hebrew at the University of Copenhagen and in 1542 became Lutheran bishop of Ribe. Among his literary works are sermons, hymns, and a translation from Hebrew to Danish (1535) of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.

## Johannes Bugenhagen (1485-1558)

He was not only active as Wittenberg's town priest from 1523 onwards, Luther's personal spiritual adviser and theology lecturer at the Wittenberg University, but also an exceptionally good organizer and indispensable for the Reformation in northern Germany and Scandinavia. He founded a church polity for Denmark, where he spent nearly five years (1537-1542). His church constitutions were models. They regulated not only the divine service, but also worldly such as the educational system and social matters.



## Timeline of Hans Tausen

- 1494** – Born to Peasant parents
- Joins Monastic order of St. John Baptist (Jerusalem Monks)
- Studies at Cologne (Scholarship for anywhere but Wittenberg) Goes to Wittenburg
- 1521** - Dr. at Rostock - Returns to Denmark
- 1524** – Easter sermon on Justification by Faith incurs Bishop's wrath – transferred to a convent in Viborg Converts people from cell. Attempts to silence him result in a citizen uprising.
- 1526** - Protected by King Frederick's Toleration Rescript, Hans preaches from Viborg Pulpit
- 1528** - Eck refuses to come to disputation. Hans' Danish translation of Luther's Hymns enthusiastically welcomed by the people
- 1529** - Area mostly Lutheran, Tausen moves to Copenhagen by King's appointment . Scriptures translated into Danish
- 1530** - Disputation at Copenhagen – Copenhagen Confession
- 1533** - King Frederick 1 dies.
- Between **1533** and **1536** Denmark is disrupted by Civil War, floods and storms and persecution of the Protestants. Henry Tausen is expelled.
- 1536** Christian III defeats invasion efforts by Christian II and becomes King. Recess of Copenhagen establishes Danish reformation
- 1537** - Christian III crowned by Bugenhagen – Kingdom constituted as Lutheran. Diet of Odensee
- 1538** - Bugenhagen comes from Wittenberg. Polity reformed, reducing Bishops to Superintendents with "oversight over churches". Peder Palladius (1503-1560) becomes one of six Bishops. Writes Visitation after fising 390 parishes in six years.
- 1539** - Hans Tausen given Chair of Theology at Roskilde to train leadership
- 1542** - Hans Tausen made superintendent of Ribe.
- 1561** - Death of Hans Tausen.