

# REFORMATION 500

## SOURCEBOOK

Anniversary Resources  
for Congregations



AUGSBURG FORTRESS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Introduction

Welcome. . . . .	5
How Do We Observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation? . . . . .	7
What’s in the <i>Reformation 500 Sourcebook</i> ?. . . . .	9

## Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

Planning Worship for the Reformation 500 Observance . . . . .	15
Ongoing Reformation: Worship in an Ecumenical Age . . . . .	19
Alternate Worship Texts for Observances of the Reformation Anniversary . . . . .	23
Worship Helps for Reformation Sunday . . . . .	25
Thanksgivings at the Table. . . . .	39
Hymns for the Anniversary Year. . . . .	43
Hymn of the Day as Reformation Inheritance . . . . .	49
Common Prayer . . . . .	51
Oración Común . . . . .	63
Evening Prayer / Oración de la Tarde . . . . .	75
A Midweek Lenten Series Based on Luther’s Small Catechism . . . . .	77
The Church’s Journey in Art and Song . . . . .	83
Blessings and Prayers Based on Those in Luther’s Small Catechism . . . . .	87

## Read, Mark, and Learn

Celebrating and Learning—the Reformation for Children and Adults. . . . .	93
Studies by and for Lutherans and Roman Catholics . . . . .	95
Commemorating 1517 without Dressing Up as Luther with a Hammer. . . . .	99
The Ninety-Five Theses . . . . .	105
Martin Luther, the Catechism, and Music . . . . .	113
Movies about Martin Luther—An Overview. . . . .	121
A Contemporary Lutheran Approach to Inter-Religious Relations. . . . .	125
The Lutheran Reformation in Context . . . . .	129
“About the Lutherans” Bulletin Inserts . . . . .	131

## **Preserve, Support, and Serve**

Some Elements for a Lutheran Theology for Social and Ecological Justice . . . . .	159
An Eco-Justice Reformation for 2017 and Beyond. . . . .	167
Living Out the Small Catechism. . . . .	169

## **Plan, Explore, and Publicize**

Organizing Your Reformation Observance. . . . .	175
For Further Exploration . . . . .	177
Reformation Anniversary Communications Guide . . . . .	183

Permission/Guidelines for Image Usage. . . . .	189
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# WELCOME

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his Ninety-Five Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany—an act that sparked the Lutheran Reformation. I invite you to become involved in the various ways that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is observing this anniversary.

Resources such as this *Reformation 500 Sourcebook* represent one important aspect of the ELCA's observance. I encourage you to explore and mine its contents to assist your planning for your local context.

A little more than a year before the anniversary, on **August 10-13, 2016**, we are hosting the **Grace Gathering** in conjunction with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. This special event gives Grace Gathering attendees and Churchwide Assembly voting members an opportunity to come together in kicking off the 500th anniversary! We are pleased to provide a gratis copy of this Sourcebook to each registrant for the Grace Gathering.

I also invite and encourage you to become involved in the ELCA's ongoing observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation into 2017 and beyond by visiting and bookmarking [www.ELCA500.org](http://www.ELCA500.org), a growing hub of resources, events, and news surrounding preparation for the observance. You also can follow current developments on Facebook at [ELCA Reformation 500](#).

Grace and peace to you,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# HOW DO WE OBSERVE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION?

The first instinct for many will be to throw a big party. Give thanks! Celebrate! And there will be plenty of that as we near the year 2017, five hundred years since Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in the city of Wittenberg, Germany.

But there is more to marking this milestone. Luther and a number of his reforming companions were teachers—of university students, of pastors and bishops, of laypeople. So education has a rightful place in our observance. They took part in conversations—with varying success—with Christians of various traditions. So ecumenical connections deserve to be included in our plans. And to be candid, the events of the Reformation era resulted in divisions in the church that continue to this day. Luther and some who have followed his teachings have done and said some hurtful and damaging things. So lament and repentance will also color our observance. These are just a few of the dynamics of this anniversary, which extend to the fields of worship and music, the sciences and cultural studies, social action and public witness, and many more.

The Lutheran church is diverse, and it is decentralized—meaning that no one will be giving congregations a blueprint for how they should observe this anniversary. Those choices will vary, depending on your context. Here is an invitation to form the plans your congregation will make. Through several avenues, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Augsburg Fortress are highlighting a wide range of ideas and possibilities from various sources. We hope the information and resources in this sourcebook encourage you to start planning today. A checklist to help you organize your observance is included in this sourcebook on p. 175.

And remember, this anniversary involves much more than one year. Significant events of the Lutheran branch of the Reformation continued over the decades following, including the Leipzig Debates in 1519, the Diet of Worms in 1521, the publication of the Small Catechism in 1529, and the Augsburg Confession in 1530. How might the observance of five hundred years of Reformation continue in your context in the years ahead? How might taking that longer view give you some breathing room for your observance rather than trying to fit it all into one year or one day?

How will Lutherans observe this anniversary in ways that are forward-looking, outward-directed, and focused on the amazing mercy of God in Jesus Christ? Blessings to you and your congregation as you seek to answer that question in the places where you live and serve.

# WHAT'S IN THE REFORMATION 500 SOURCEBOOK, and How Might You Use It?

As the title of this book suggests, you will find within it a wide variety of materials related to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. None of it will be useful for every situation, but it is wide-ranging enough that all congregations should find ideas to enrich their observances.

Beyond this introductory material, the book is divided into three main sections, plus a list of additional resources and a CD-ROM on the inside back cover that contains materials for easy reproduction and use. In the list below, items with this icon  may be suitable for printing and distribution, and so can be found on the CD-ROM.

## Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

We begin, appropriately, with worship. The actual anniversary of the Ninety-Five Theses is one day, but in many congregations the Reformation anniversary will play a role in worship planning for months, even a full year, in advance—and perhaps beyond, since October 31, 1517, was just the beginning of the Reformation.

### Planning Worship for the Reformation 500

**Observance** Kevin Strickland

*The ELCA's director for worship offers suggestions for those who will shape liturgies, whether on a Sunday morning or in a special context. This is a great place to begin your discussions.*

### Alternate Worship Texts for Observances of the Reformation Anniversary

*Some of the alternate texts provided in Sundays and Seasons 2017 are particularly well suited to worship related to the Reformation, and those are reprinted here.*

### Ongoing Reformation: Worship in an Ecumenical Age

Craig Mueller

*The Reformation brought many gifts to the wider church, but we Lutherans have also gained much from other traditions. Here an ELCA pastor lifts up some examples and provides questions for group discussion.*

### Worship Helps for Reformation Sunday

*Also from Sundays and Seasons 2017 and its companion volume, Sundays and Seasons: Preaching 2017, here are sample prayers of intercession and preaching helps crafted around the Reformation Day propers and those for the Sundays on which Reformation Sunday will fall, Lectionary 31 (2016) and Lectionary 30 (2017).*

### **Thanksgivings at the Table for the Anniversary of the Reformation** Gail Ramshaw

*The eleven eucharistic prayers contained in Evangelical Lutheran Worship are just a beginning. Dr. Ramshaw is a scholar and artist who has worked creatively with eucharistic praying, and here she brings new thanksgivings at the table in two different styles, suitable for Reformation, church anniversaries, and other occasions.*

### **Hymns for the Anniversary Year**

*Some hymns are naturals for the Reformation observance. Beyond the obvious, though, what other hymns might be considered, even beyond late October? Here is an annotated list of hymn and song recommendations (how to use, why this hymn) for observing the Reformation anniversary through the year.*

### **The Hymn of the Day as Reformation Inheritance** Mark Mummert

*We may not often think of the hymn of the day, the central hymn of our worship, as a Lutheran contribution. Here, reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, a prominent musician invites us to give more thought to this element in which the assembly proclaims God's word.*

### **Common Prayer / Oración Común: From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran–Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017**

*This is an order for a prayer service prepared jointly by the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican. It is the basis for a service to be held in Lund, Sweden, in October 2016. It is here presented in both English and Spanish.*

### **Evening Prayer / Oración de la Tarde**

*From the Lutheran World Federation publication Koinonia, this is a simple order for evening prayer. It is printed in English and Spanish, and versions in French and German are also provided on the CD-ROM.*

### **Midweek Lenten Series Based on Luther's Small Catechism** Lynn Bullock

*Intended for midweek worship, each week is based on a different section of the catechism. The order is opening dialogue, gathering song, reading, reflection, song, prayer, blessing, sending song. The series is prepared by an ELCA diaconal minister.*

### **The Church's Journey in Art and Song: How to Adapt and Contextualize** Scott Weidler

*An outline for a festival of song and the arts, based on the one presented at the Worship Jubilee in Atlanta in July 2015; with many suggestions and resources for adapting to different circumstances. The CD-ROM includes plenty of related resources.*

### **Prayers and Blessings Based on Those in Luther's Small Catechism** Jennifer Baker-Trinity

*At the end of the Small Catechism (see ELW, pp. 1166–67), Luther provided some prayers and blessings. Here an ELCA associate in ministry takes the patterns of the prayers in the Small Catechism and offers new words for different occasions and circumstances.*

## Read, Mark, and Learn

Education has always been an important facet of the Lutheran community. Here are some ways to enrich our learning about the Reformation and the people and events within it.

### Introducing Resources for Children and Adults

*In addition to this sourcebook, two other major resources have been developed by Augsburg Fortress to enhance education about the Reformation and Lutherans. This article introduces Papa Luther (for children) and Together by Grace (for adults), and gives some ideas for how they might be used.*

### Studies by and for Lutherans and Roman Catholics

Kathryn Johnson

*In recent years, three significant books about the continuing Reformation have been written by Roman Catholic and Lutheran teams. Here the ELCA's executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations presents a comparative guide to those resources, From Conflict to Communion; Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist; and One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ.*

### Commemorating 1517 without Dressing Up as Luther with a Hammer

Gail Ramshaw

*Beginning with its lighthearted title, a respected ELCA scholar here provides engaging and practical thoughts on observing the anniversary in creative yet authentic ways. This article is based on Dr. Ramshaw's presentation at the 2015 ELCA Worship Jubilee in Atlanta.*

### The Ninety-Five Theses

*This is the list of propositions for debate that sparked the Reformation, yet some people haven't ever seen what they actually said. Here they are with a brief introduction and information about an excellent study guide.*

### Martin Luther, the Catechism, and Music

Kathryn Kleinhans

*Most people know that Luther sometimes expressed his theology in hymns as a way to*

*communicate with ordinary Christians. In addition to well-known hymns like "A Mighty Fortress" and "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast," he wrote a hymn on each chief part of the Catechism. Professor Kleinhans from Wartburg College offers a study of these five catechism hymns.*

### Movies about Martin Luther: An Overview

*If you want to view a movie to learn more about Luther and the Reformation, what offerings are available, and how do they compare? Here are synopses of some candidates.*

### A Contemporary Lutheran Approach to Inter-Religious Relations

ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran–Jewish Relations

*Martin Luther clearly brought much good not only to the church but to the wider world. Yet it doesn't serve anyone well to overlook his more problematic statements, especially those regarding the Jewish people from later in his life. Asking the provocative question "Why Follow Luther past 2017?" this document suggests a path toward a fair assessment of the reformer for today.*

### Reformation Timeline

*What happened when in the Reformation, and for context, what else was going on in the world at that time?*

### "About the Lutherans" Bulletin Inserts

*As a way to help inform congregation members about the Reformation and the Lutheran Church, twelve bulletin inserts on diverse topics have been prepared and are available in PDF format on the CD-ROM.*

## Preserve, Support, and Serve

*Our faith needs always to take active form. Much of this service will not change because of the Reformation anniversary, but here are a few items to spur deeper thought and practical ideas.*

### Toward a Lutheran Theology for Social and Ecological Justice Carmelo Santos

*Dr. Santos's essay proposes groundings in Lutheran theology for care of creation, working for justice and peace, and serving the neighbor. In what ways can Lutheran theology point us toward a path that leads in the direction of social and ecological justice?*

### Living Out the Small Catechism

*We think of the catechism as something to study and memorize, but how can it also direct us toward deeds? This article suggests practical ideas based on the structure of the Small Catechism—particularly the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.*

### An Eco-Justice Reformation for 2017 and Beyond David Rhoads

*Lutherans Restoring Creation is a group of pastors, teachers, and laity challenging the ELCA to more fully address today's ecological crises. How can this recently formed group help us benefit the natural creation?*

## Plan, Explore, and Publicize

### Organizing Your Reformation Observance: A Checklist

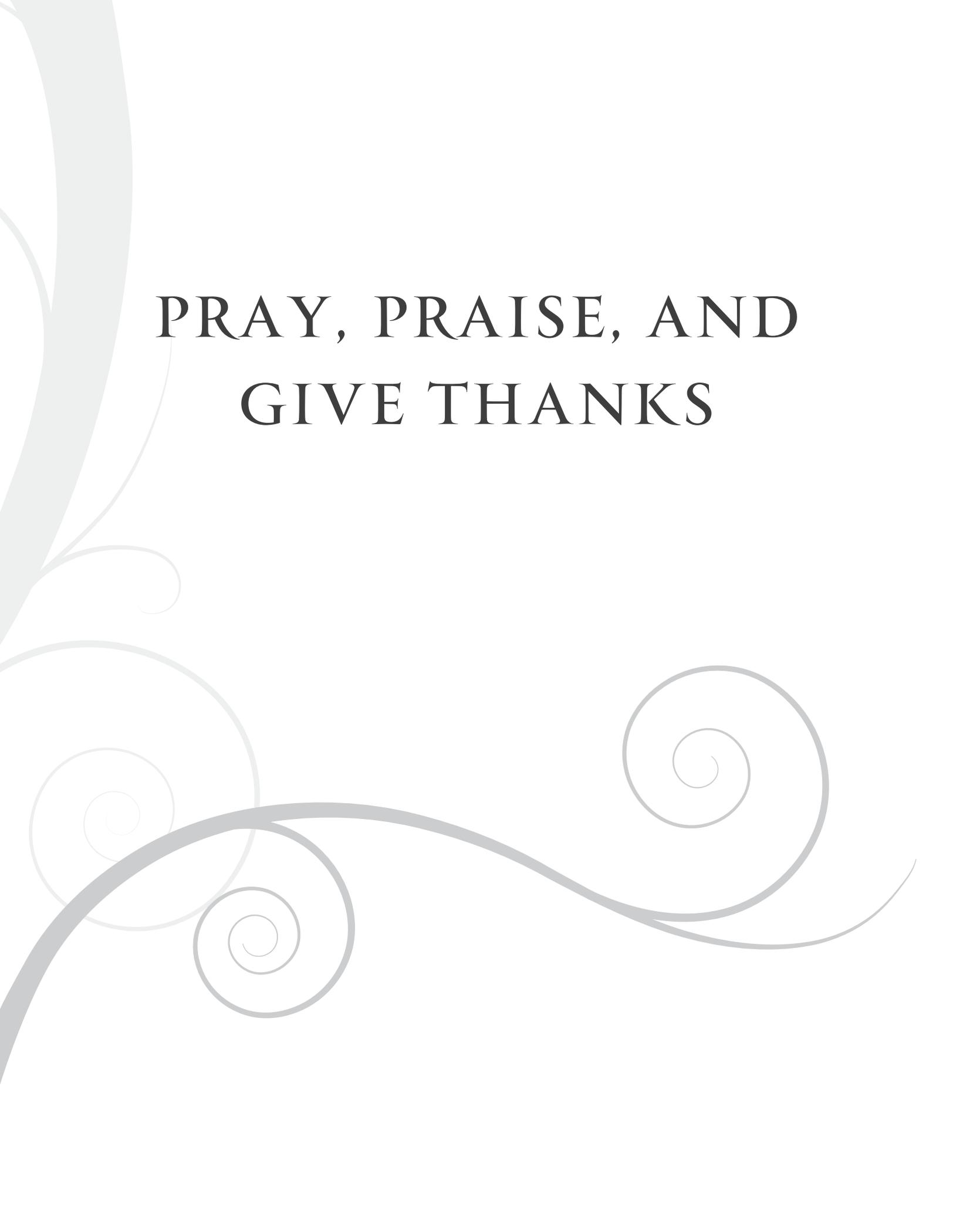
*A list of practical ideas for getting your Reformation observance off the ground and into action, sorted by various areas of the congregation's life.*

### For Further Exploration

*This sourcebook is just a beginning—many other resources are available to learn about Luther and the Reformation, to draw in congregational and community members of all ages. Here is a listing of some of those—books, films and other media, and websites.*

### Reformation Anniversary Communications Guide

*The Lutheran Reformation succeeded partly because of the media—specifically, the printing press. Print is still an effective means of communication, but so are other, more recent forms. This article will help you make good use of them and help make your task easier.*



PRAY, PRAISE, AND  
GIVE THANKS

# PLANNING WORSHIP FOR THE REFORMATION 500 OBSERVANCE

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, many will be planning worship services for the occasion. As we approach that task, I find Marty Haugen's words to the hymn "Soli Deo Gloria" (ELW 878) to be a helpful perspective:

All praise for Jesus, best gift divine  
through word and witness, in bread and wine;  
incarnate love song of boundless grace,  
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,  
your steadfast kindness with human face:  
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!

A billion voices in one great song,  
now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,  
in every culture and style and key,  
from hill and valley, with sky and sea,  
with Christ we praise you eternally:  
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!

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Whether your approach to planning worship for this anniversary is one of observation, celebration, commemoration, reconciliation, or a combination of all four, may we remember that we are a church that isn't reformed, but reforming. May we remember that we are a church that does not hold a monopoly on all of the answers of the Christian faith. May we remember, and even allow, moments of lament for the history of division that has occurred and harmful words that have been used in God's name toward our sisters and brothers. May we remember that we are a church that is part of a much larger body—the body of Christ.

In crafting these liturgies, whether it is for a Sunday morning service, a multicongregational service, or an ecumenical service, how do we uplift the *means of grace* and point people to Jesus as that "best gift divine"? We do this by pointing people to word and water, bread and wine, song and prayer.

Moving to more specific things to keep in mind in preparing worship, keep your eyes open for ways to balance the ordo (gathering/word/meal/sending) within a special service:

- The prayers of intercession, at their best, are always crafted by someone locally for the particular context. Many different Reformation themes can be woven into carefully prepared prayers.

# ALTERNATE WORSHIP TEXTS FOR OBSERVANCES OF THE REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY

Note: These texts are also provided in *Sundays and Seasons 2017*, on page 252.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the + holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Source of all life,  
**we confess that we have not allowed  
your grace to set us free.  
We fear that we are not good enough.  
We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.  
We turn the church inward,  
rather than moving it outward.  
Forgive us. Stir us.  
Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
willing to speak for what is right,  
act for what is just,  
and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
and to empower our lives in the world.  
Our sins are forgiven,  
+ God's love is unconditional,  
and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# WORSHIP HELPS FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

*The following materials are reprinted from Sundays and Seasons 2016 (Year C) and 2017 (Year A), and Sundays and Seasons: Preaching 2016 and 2017. Since the day may be observed using either the lectionary proper assigned for the date or those for Reformation Day, both are provided.*

**October 30, 2016**

Lectionary 31 C

## **SAMPLE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Set free by the truth of God's gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

Continue to reform your church, O God. Unite it in mission. Teach it to grow in service. Send it to those who do not yet know your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Call us to repent our destructive actions toward your beautiful creation. Help us to leave our children and grandchildren a world in which to live and thrive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Call the nations to account, O God. Show leaders and governments the way to peace. Awaken in us a desire for the well-being of all people, both our friends and our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show your mercy to all those who call on you in times of trouble. Provide for the poor, heal the sick, and comfort the grieving. Especially we pray for. . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Teach us to welcome the stranger as Christ himself. Prepare us to receive newcomers and visitors in this assembly with true hospitality and gracious care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the faithful witnesses and renewers of the church who have gone before us (*especially*) and who now enjoy eternal life with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

# THANKSGIVINGS AT THE TABLE

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

### A VARIABLE PRAYER FORM

This prayer is based on the readings appointed for Reformation Day: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 3:19-28, and John 8:31-36. For an abbreviated prayer, use only the first line of each unit (A lines) placing a period where needed. For use on Sundays, use the first and the second line of each unit (A and B lines). For use on festivals, add an appropriate third line. Here the third lines, printed in italics (C lines), are especially appropriate for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

A We praise you, all-holy God,  
B our maker, our lover, our keeper,  
C *our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth,*

A for the universe beyond our knowing,  
B for seas and forests and fields,  
C *for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place,*

A for creatures seen and unseen,  
B for animals both wild and tame,  
C *for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe,*

A and for the places we humans call home,  
B for cities and churches and schools,  
C *for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.*

A We praise you for your covenant people,  
B for Moses and Miriam and Aaron,  
C *for Jeremiah and the psalmists,*

A and for centuries of faithful Christians,  
B for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,  
C *for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg and Fedde,  
for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai,  
Nommensen and Kierkegaard,  
Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld,  
for all servants of the Reformation.*

# HYMNS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Probably every Lutheran congregation in the world will be singing “A mighty fortress is our God” on Reformation Sunday 2017. That chorale and hymns like “Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word” and “God’s Word is our great heritage” are staples for any Reformation celebration, let alone the 500th. But what other hymns are particularly appropriate for use this year—not just in late October, but throughout the year? What follows are some suggestions from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, along with a few notes explaining why they were chosen. These hymns could be considered for scheduling in worship through the year, or some might be collected into a hymn festival.

It’s worth noting what this list is not: it doesn’t pretend to be a collection of the “best” hymns (whatever that might mean), or the ones with the strongest ties to the Lutheran Reformation. It was difficult to assemble this list because of all the worthy hymns, favorites of many, that had to be left out.

What is here is a sampling—some chorales, some hymns from other times and traditions, hymns from various places in the world. We hope you will consider them, but also that these will spur you to make your own selections from the treasury available. For more information about these hymns, please consult the marvelous *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by Paul Westermeyer, available from Augsburg Fortress.

## Advent

### ELW 243: LOST IN THE NIGHT

This hymn with roots in the Nordic countries of Finland, Norway, and Sweden captures well the longing of Advent, yet it also can be heard as expressing the church’s deep and continuing need for enlightenment, to be released from sin and set free to help bring to “all peoples a Savior redeeming.”

### ELW 263: SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

For many, this ancient hymn is on the “must use every year” list already. It is included in this list because it embodies the Reformation: it was already a hymn of the church catholic, dating back to Ambrose in the fourth century. Then Martin Luther put it in the vernacular for Germans, at the same time subtly reshaping it, as all translations do. The hymn’s strong gospel note carries through from Latin into English, reminding us that the good news of our salvation is a message shared by the whole Christian church.

# COMMON PRAYER

## From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran–Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017

*Text by the Liturgical Task Force of the Lutheran–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity*

### **Introduction to the Common Prayer for the Ecumenical Commemoration**

#### **COMMON PRAYER**

This liturgical order marks a very special moment in the journey from conflict to communion between Lutherans and Catholics. It offers an opportunity to look back in thanksgiving and confession and look ahead, committing ourselves to common witness and continuing our journey together.

The ecumenical commemoration of five hundred years of reformation reflects in its basic liturgical structure this theme of thanksgiving, repentance, and common witness and commitment, as developed in *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran–Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017: Report of the Lutheran–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity*. These characteristics of common prayer mirror the reality of Christian life: shaped by God’s Word, the people are sent out in common witness and service. In this particular and unique ecumenical commemoration, thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance mark the singing and the praying as we commemorate the gifts of the Reformation and ask forgiveness for the division that we have perpetuated. Thanksgiving and lament, however, do not stand alone: they lead us to common witness and commitment to each other and for the world.

#### **A PRACTICAL GUIDE**

##### **Roles in the Common Prayer**

Throughout this ecumenical commemoration, two roles are designated: presiders and readers. The two presiders are to be Lutheran and Catholic. The two readers are to be Catholic and Lutheran. The readers and presiders should not be the same persons.

## Common Prayer

### FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION: LUTHERAN–CATHOLIC COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION

#### Opening

##### OPENING SONG

##### Presider I:

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*One of the following dialogues is spoken. Other opening dialogues may be used, depending on context and language.*

O Lord, open my lips.

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*or*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

##### Presider I:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ! Welcome to this ecumenical prayer, which commemorates the five hundred years of the Reformation. For over fifty years, Lutherans and Catholics have been on a journey from conflict to communion. With joy we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. On this journey, mutual understanding and trust have grown.

##### Presider II:

So it is possible for us to gather today. We come with different thoughts and feelings of thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance, joy in the gospel and sorrow for division. We gather to commemorate in remembrance, in thanksgiving and confession, and in common witness and commitment.

##### Reader I:

In the document *From Conflict to Communion*, we read, “The church is the body of Christ. As there is only one Christ, so also he has only one body. Through baptism, human beings are made members of this body” [#219]. “Since Catholics and Lutherans are bound to one another in the body of Christ as members of it, then it is true of them what Paul says in First Corinthians 12:26: ‘If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.’ What affects one member of the body also affects all the others. For this reason, when Lutheran Christians remember the events that led to the particular formation of their churches, they do not wish to do so without their Catholic fellow Christians. In remembering with each other the beginning of the Reformation, they are taking their baptism seriously” [#221].

# ORACIÓN COMÚN

## Del conflicto a la comunión: Conmemoración conjunta luterano–católico romana de la Reforma en el 2017

*Texto elaborado por el comité de liturgia de la Comisión Luterano–Católico Romana sobre la Unidad*

### **Introducción a la Oración Común para la Conmemoración Ecu­ménica**

#### **ORACIÓN COMÚN**

Este orden litúrgico marca un momento muy especial en el camino del conflicto a la comunión entre luteranos y católicos. Nos ofrece la oportunidad de mirar al pasado con agradecimiento y arrepentimiento, y mirar hacia el futuro comprometiéndonos en un testimonio común y continuando nuestro caminar conjunto.

La conmemoración ecuménica de los 500 años de la Reforma refleja en su estructura litúrgica básica el tema de la acción de gracias, la confesión y el arrepentimiento, y el testimonio y compromiso común, tal como fuera desarrollado en *Del conflicto a la comunión: Conmemoración conjunta luterano–católico romana de la Reforma en el 2017. Informe de la Comisión Luterano–Católico Romana sobre la Unidad*. Estas características de la Oración Común reflejan la realidad de la vida cristiana: formadas por la palabra de Dios, las personas son enviadas a dar testimonio y servicio en común. En esta particular y señera conmemoración ecuménica, la acción de gracias y el lamento, el gozo y el arrepentimiento, sellan el canto y la oración con *los* que conmemoramos los dones de la Reforma, pidiendo perdón por la división que hemos perpetuado. La acción de gracias y el lamento, sin embargo, no son todo, pues nos conducen al testimonio común y al compromiso de *los unos* con *los otros* y con el mundo.

#### **UNA GUÍA PRÁCTICA**

##### **Roles en la Oración Común**

Durante esta conmemoración ecuménica se señalan dos roles: oficiantes y quienes leen. Las dos personas oficiantes serán una luterana y la otra católico romana. Las dos personas que leen serán una católica y la otra luterana. Quienes leen y quienes offician no deben ser las mismas personas.

## Oración Común

### DEL CONFLICTO A LA COMMUNION: CONMEMORACIÓN CONJUNTA LUTERANO—CATÓLICO ROMANA DE LA REFORMA EN EL 2017

#### Apertura

##### HIMNO DE ENTRADA

##### Oficiante I:

En el nombre del Padre, y del + Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo.

**Amén.**

El Señor sea con ustedes.

**Y con tu espíritu.**

*Pueden utilizarse otros diálogos de apertura acorde al contexto.*

Señor, abre mis labios

**Y publicará mi boca tu alabanza.**

Gloria al Padre, y al Hijo, y al Espíritu Santo;

**Como era en el principio, ahora y siempre, por los siglos de los siglos.**

**Amén.**

##### Oficiante I:

¡Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo! Les damos la bienvenida a esta celebración ecuménica que conmemora los 500 años de la Reforma. Por más de 50 años luteranos y católicos han recorrido el camino del conflicto a la comunión. Con júbilo hemos llegado a reconocer que lo que nos une supera con mucho aquello que nos divide. En este caminar, han crecido la comprensión y la confianza mutuas.

##### Oficiante II:

Por ello, hoy es posible congregarnos. Nos acercamos con diferentes pensamientos y sentimientos de acción de gracias y lamento, júbilo y arrepentimiento, gozo en el evangelio y pena por la división. Nos congregamos para conmemorar en remembranza, en acción de gracias y confesión, y en testimonio y compromiso común.

##### Lector(a) I:

En el documento *Del conflicto a la comunión* leemos: “La iglesia es el cuerpo de Cristo. Y dado que solo hay un Cristo, así también él tiene solo un cuerpo. Mediante el bautismo, los seres humanos son constituidos en miembros de su cuerpo” [#219]. “Ya que tanto católicos como luteranos se encuentran unidos unos a otros en el Cuerpo de Cristo, del cual son miembros, se verifica en ellos lo que Pablo menciona en 1 Cor 12:26: “Si uno de los miembros sufre, los demás comparten su sufrimiento; y si uno de ellos recibe honor, los demás se alegran con él.” Lo que afecta a un miembro del cuerpo afecta también a todos los demás. Por esta razón, cuando los cristianos luteranos recuerdan los acontecimientos que dieron lugar a la formación particular de sus iglesias, no desean hacerlo sin sus hermanas

# EVENING PRAYER

# ORACIÓN DE LA TARDE

*We may listen to drumming or other music.*

*We attend to the sound of a bell or gong.*

*We light a candle.*

*We sing an evening song.*

*We pray with words inspired by Psalm 121.*

My help comes from you, O God,  
**you made heaven and earth.**

You do not let my foot be moved,  
**you watch over me.**

You are my keeper, my shade,  
**the sun shall not strike me by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

You preserve me from all evil,  
**you keep my life.**

You watch over my going out  
and my coming in,  
**from evening until morning,  
now and always. Amen.**

*We listen to a short reading of scripture.*

*We meditate in silence.*

God, our creator and protector,  
you illumine the world and breathe life into us.  
You heal the world with your outstretched arms.  
You rescue creation and inspire your church.  
We thank you for this day.

*Podemos hacer oír el tambor u otra música.*

*Escuchamos el sonido de la campana o del gong.*

*Escendemos el cirio.*

*Cantamos un cántico vespertino.*

*Hacemos oración inspirada en el Salmo 121.*

Mi socorro viene de ti, Oh Dios,  
**que has hecho el cielo y la tierra.**

No dejas que mi pie se deslice,  
**tú velas sobre mí.**

Tú eres mi guarda, mi sombra,  
**el sol no me herirá de día,  
ni la luna de noche.**

Tú me proteges de todo mal,  
**guardas mi vida.**

Tú cuidas de mi salida  
y de mi entrada,  
**desde el atardecer hasta el amanecer,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.**

*Escuchamos una breve lectura bíblica.*

*Meditamos en silencio.*

Dios, creador y protector,  
tú iluminas el mundo e infundes vida en nosotros.  
Sanas al mundo con tus brazos extendidos.  
Rescatas la creación e inspiras a tu iglesia.  
Te damos gracias por este día.

# A MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES BASED ON LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 marks the international observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, this midweek Lenten series is built around Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but in the home. Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. To that end he created the Small Catechism—a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments. He included basic prayers for morning and evening, and suggested ways to worship, praise, and revere God during each part of our day.

This series uses scripture readings from the daily lectionary (usually those appointed for the Wednesdays of each week in Lent) or passages referred to in the Small Catechism itself. The daily lectionary readings for year A are listed in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pages 1121–25; the Small Catechism is printed on pages 1160–67. The first week of this series sets the stage with the handing down of the Ten Commandments in Exodus. The following weeks look at each major section of the Small Catechism in turn: the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, baptism, and holy communion. Studying the Small Catechism offers a way of growing closer to God by thinking on God's word and the basics of our faith. If desired, congregations could supplement this series with a weekly study of that portion of the catechism or use each portion in turn as part of the reflection.

## FOR THE REFLECTIONS

Various forms of reflection may follow the scripture reading, such as brief commentary, teaching, or personal witness; nonbiblical readings; interpretation through music or other art forms; or guided conversation among those present. Commentary or teaching could connect scripture with the portion of the Small Catechism being featured each week. Or, the congregation could experience some kind of hands-on project together that follows the theme of the week. For example:

- Creating posters, either for the worship space or as family groups to take home, that match each week's portion of the Small Catechism. For example, the first week the poster could be as simple as copying the Ten Commandments (or Luther's explanations) or having each group paraphrase the commandments and put Luther's explanation into their own words. At the end of the five weeks, the community, or each group, would have posters on the entire Small Catechism.

# THE CHURCH'S JOURNEY IN ART AND SONG

## How to Adapt and Contextualize a Festival of Art and Music for Local Use during 2017 and beyond

It is often said that the Lutheran Church is a singing church. Singing by the gathered people of God, while not unique to Lutherans, is a hallmark of who we are. Lutherans have a rich tradition of the visual arts as well, dating back to Lucas Cranach. In a Lutheran understanding, both of these artistic forms can rightly be used to communicate the word of God and, therefore, when joined together, can be a rich way of commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. However, music and visual art did not begin in sixteenth-century Germany, nor did they end there. These art forms are lively and ever evolving. We do well, therefore, to integrate music and art from many times, places, and peoples, moved by the same Spirit, to fully observe this forthcoming anniversary.

What is offered here is one possible plan that may be adapted for your unique context. It is meant to spark imagination and provide a starting point for creativity with integrity. A brief description of the core plan is presented here, along with some of the goals that guided its development. Extensive suggestions for adaptation and additional helps are included on the CD that accompanies this book.



Participants in the ELCA's 2015 Worship Jubilee, "Called to Be a Living Voice," gathered at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta to experience the first manifestation of this journey. An archive of the live-streaming from that event is being made available; information may be found at [elca.org/worship](http://elca.org/worship). This may be helpful in understanding the flow of the core plan, hearing how some of the music might sound, and sparking the imagination.

*A primary goal* was to present the music and visual art in a thematic organization around the nature of the church and the Reformation, rather than in a historical or linear fashion. The three statements that guided the program development are:

1. The Spirit gathers the church around word and sacrament.
2. God hears our cries for mercy and pours out abundant grace.
3. The Spirit leads us into Christ's future with glad and generous hearts.

# BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS BASED ON THOSE IN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

The Small Catechism of Martin Luther includes blessings for morning, evening, and around the household meal. These prayers are a treasured heritage and deservedly continue to be widely used. In the spirit of Luther's original blessings, these alternatives are offered—not to replace those by Luther, but to supplement them. These new versions are written with today's Christians in mind and in some cases are designed for particular situations. Luther's originals may be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pages 1166–67. For marking baptismal anniversaries, we commend *Let the Children Come: A Baptism Manual for Parents and Sponsors* by Daniel Erlander, pages 29–30.

## TABLE BLESSINGS

### A Table Blessing to Begin a Meal for Families

*One of the family speaks this or another similar Bible passage.*

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it. (Ps. 24:1 NRSV)

*Then all who are able speak this prayer together.*

All here gathered, food from the land,  
all is gift from your gracious hand.  
Feed us today; feed all those who hunger;  
teach us to feed one another.

We ask this in the name of the one who is our bread, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### A Table Blessing to End a Meal for Families

*One of the family speaks this or another similar Bible passage.*

Rejoice in the Lord always. (Phil. 4:4)

*Then this prayer is spoken. All may speak it together, or it may be said responsively between one and all as indicated.*

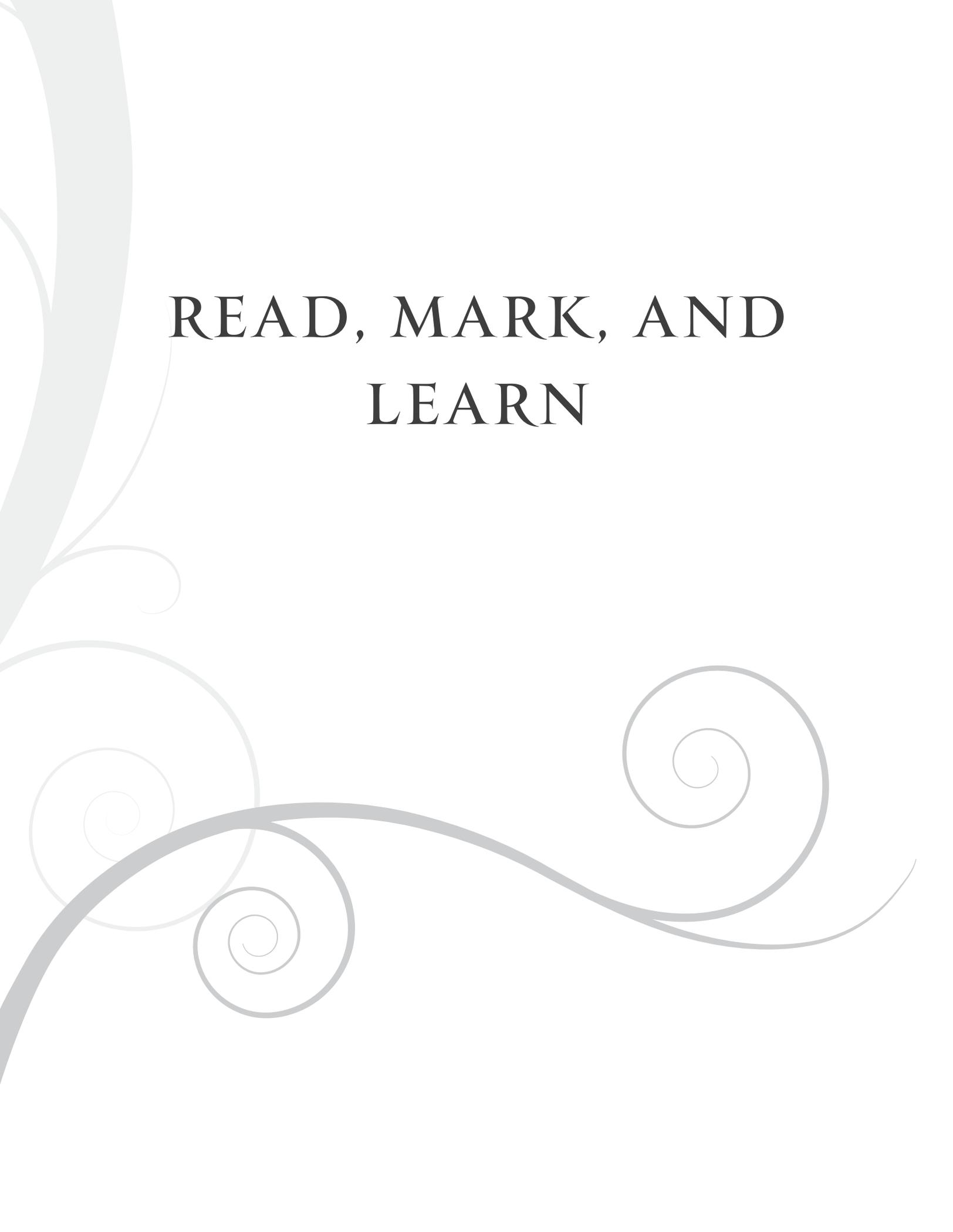
For our food, **we rejoice.**

For our friends, **we rejoice.**

For every good gift, **we rejoice.**

Thank you, O God, for this time to eat together.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



READ, MARK, AND  
LEARN

# CELEBRATING AND LEARNING

## —the Reformation for Children and Adults

The Reformation happened a long time ago—500 years in 2017, to be exact. So even though it was an important event, many people these days are fuzzy, at best, on the details. How do we help them get up to speed on Martin and Katie Luther, indulgences, theses, the Diet of Worms (!), and all the rest?

We suggest you begin with a graphic novel. If you aren't familiar with those, you might recognize it as a comic book, in the broadest sense. Augsburg Fortress has a graphic novel (available August 2016) called *Papa Luther*. It tells the story of Martin Luther through his conversations with his children. Along the way, we learn about his strict upbringing, his life as a monk, his conflicts with pope and emperor over indulgences, and much more. Luther's children, especially Hans and Magda, are central characters, and just the ages of the 8-to-13-year-olds this is geared toward. But the story is dramatic and presented in full color, so we think this resource will appeal to many outside that age range.

For adults who want more detail, and might like a book they can keep around to remember this major anniversary, we lift up *Together by Grace*, a book that tells not only about Luther and the Reformation, but the exciting ventures Lutherans are involved in around the world to this very day. It is written by some of the top teachers and leaders in the church and presented in a colorful format. This book, too, will be available in August 2016.

Study guides for both these resources will be available online. For more information, see “For Further Exploration” on page 177 of this sourcebook, or go to [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

### REFORMATION FAIR

Looking for still more? Maybe something involving everyone—children and adults—in experiential learning, something fun? How about something like a Reformation Fair!

Those who buy *Papa Luther*, the new graphic novel for children and others, will learn that market day was a big deal in Wittenberg and other German towns. Farmers and artisans would be selling their wares to those who needed them, and it provided a time for everyone to mingle, to find out what was going on, maybe even to hear about the bold ideas of a young professor at the university. And when it was time for a larger celebration, it was even more exciting.

So, for this one day, why not put regular educational offerings on hold, and put your energies into one great gathering for members, visitors, all who come? You could call it a Reformation Fair, or if you prefer German, *Reformationsmesse*. It would be intergenerational, everyone mingling together. There

# STUDIES BY AND FOR LUTHERANS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS

## Introduction to Lutheran–Catholic Documents

Participants in the events of Reformation 500 will notice that “celebration” is not the first word used for this anniversary. This practice follows from the commitment that unlike earlier centenary anniversary years, 2017 will thankfully be a time to claim the advances in ecumenical relations, especially in Lutheran–Catholic relations, over the last half-century. Thus the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) identified “ecumenical” as one of three defining principles of this year. To an amazing degree, what began as a resolve not to re-inflame wounds of Christian division has become an opportunity to move forward toward greater unity. The implications of this approach will be evident to the world on October 31, 2016, when Pope Francis joins with Lutheran leaders to inaugurate the 500th anniversary year at a service in Lund Cathedral in Sweden.

To understand how the pope can be leading worship to commemorate the Reformation it is helpful to consider a number of texts that explore the steps which have brought Lutherans and Catholics to this new point. These documents invite the imaginations of readers from diverse contexts to ask what further steps are now both possible and necessary in their own settings in order to build upon these new perspectives.

### 1. THE “FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION” CLUSTER

Here it is easiest to work backwards in time, beginning with the newest of the three texts sharing this name:

- *Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion* (see pages 51-74 in this sourcebook) is the liturgy for the ecumenical commemoration in Lund on October 31, 2016—but the order of service is deliberately intended also for adaptation and use in local settings. It would be a good resource for planning ecumenical worship in many places. As the introduction says, “In this particular and unique ecumenical commemoration, thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance, mark the singing and the praying as we commemorate the gifts of the Reformation and ask forgiveness for the division that we have perpetuated; [these] . . . lead us to common witness and commitment to each other and for the world.”
- *Study Guide: From Conflict to Communion* was produced by an ELCA–Catholic collaboration in Pennsylvania to commend the original *From Conflict to Communion*. An inviting

# THE NINETY-FIVE THESES

In 2017 Lutherans are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Yet the Reformation continued throughout Luther's life and beyond; in fact, we hope it is continuing still today. What happened five hundred years ago, in 1517, was the event that sparked it all: Luther's writing and publicizing of the Ninety-Five Theses.

Most of us have heard of the Ninety-Five Theses, but few of us have read them or even have a clear idea of what they say. And many other writings of Luther are more significant, including his "Sermon on Indulgences and Grace," written to explain his views to nonscholars. Yet the Theses have historical value, and they are reproduced here in a translation by noted Reformation scholar Timothy Wengert.

The best way to read them is in context with a reliable guide. For that reason, Fortress Press has recently published *Martin Luther's 95 Theses* with commentary and introduction by Timothy J. Wengert, and with two accompanying documents by Luther (the October 31, 1517, letter to Archbishop Albrecht and the 1518 *Sermon on Indulgences and Grace*). This short book (978-1-4514-8279-9) includes a study guide and is recommended for both group and individual use. In it you will learn what an indulgence is, how Luther moved from preaching indulgences to preaching against them, and the discussion around whether the Ninety-Five Theses were ever nailed to the church door.

Luther didn't, of course, intend to start a split with the Roman Catholic Church. He merely drew up a list of points for discussion. But those points struck chords that were both theological and nationalistic, were viewed as threatening by the church hierarchy, and the rest is, well, the Reformation!

## [THE NINETY-FIVE THESES OR] DISPUTATION FOR CLARIFYING THE POWER OF INDULGENCES

Out of love and zeal for bringing the truth to light, what is written below will be debated in Wittenberg with the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology and regularly-appointed lecturer on these subjects at that place, presiding. Therefore, he requests that those who cannot be present to discuss orally with us will in their absence do so by letter. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1. Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying "Do penance . . ." wanted the entire life of the faithful to be one of penitence.
2. This phrase cannot be understood as referring to sacramental Penance, that is, confession and satisfaction as administered by the clergy.

# MARTIN LUTHER, THE CATECHISM, AND MUSIC

## NOTES FOR THE LEADER

You may choose to study all five hymns as a single lesson, study each hymn with the corresponding part of the Small Catechism, or use some but not all of the hymn studies.

## RESOURCES

Each participant should have access to a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Luther's Small Catechism is included in ELW beginning on page 1160. Participants will also need access to a Bible for one of the questions about Luther's baptismal hymn.

Copies of this lesson can be distributed to the participants, or a leader can simply walk the participants through the discussion of each hymn.

Reproducible public-domain texts are provided as part of this study for two catechism hymns that are not included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. For those who prefer to view the hymn texts online rather than to print copies, the following web links were valid as of March 2016:

Text of Luther's Ten Commandments hymn: <http://www.projectwittenberg.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/hymns/godlylife.txt> and at <http://nethymnal.org/hym/t/h/thatmana.htm> (with a music file).

Text of Luther's baptism hymn: [http://openhymnal.org/Lyrics/To\\_Jordan\\_Came\\_Our\\_Lord\\_The\\_Christ-Christ\\_Unser\\_Herr.html](http://openhymnal.org/Lyrics/To_Jordan_Came_Our_Lord_The_Christ-Christ_Unser_Herr.html) and at <http://nethymnal.org/hym/t/j/c/tjctcolo.htm> (with a music file).

## A NOTE ABOUT LANGUAGE

Please note that the language of the translations that are in the public domain is often dated. This may pose a challenge to students, but it is also an opportunity to talk about the importance of Luther's work as a translator. Translation isn't just about different languages like Latin, German, and English. Effective translation requires using language that regular people can understand. Because language changes over time, it is important for the church to follow Luther's example of retranslating the scriptures, liturgy, and hymns, as well as writing new hymns, to communicate the Christian faith clearly in new contexts.

*Kathryn A. Kleinhans*

# THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION IN CONTEXT

Reformation      Rest of world

**1400**

Jan Hus burned at the stake 1415

Chinese capital moved from Nanking (Nanjing) to Peking (Beijing) 1420

**1425**

Joan of Arc burned at the stake 1431

Inca Dynasty founded 1438

**1450**

Printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg 1450

Machu Picchu constructed c. 1450

Constantinople falls to Ottoman army, becomes Istanbul 1453

**1475**

Spanish Inquisition begins 1481

Luther born 1483

Morocco invades Mali 1488

Christopher Columbus lands in the Americas 1492

Katharina von Bora born 1499

**1500**

Michelangelo begins work on the statue David 1501

Atlantic slave trade begins 1502

Leonardo da Vinci begins painting the Mona Lisa 1503

Luther becomes a monk 1505

Smallpox hits the New World in Hispaniola 1507

Luther called to Wittenberg faculty 1512

Copernicus declares the sun is at the center of the solar system 1512

Luther posts the Ninety-Five Theses 1517

Melanchthon joins Wittenberg faculty 1518

Leipzig Disputation 1519

Spanish conquest of Mexico 1519

Luther excommunicated 1521

Luther appears at the Diet (Assembly) of Worms 1521

Luther declared an outlaw, escorted to the Wartburg Castle 1521

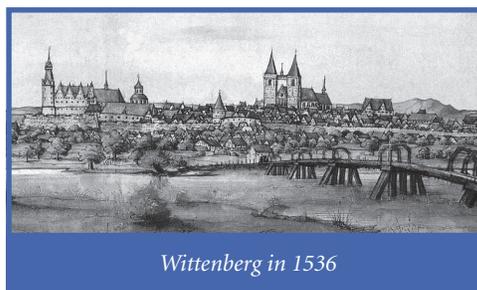
## ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

# Martin Luther: Monk to Reformer

We live in an era when fame is highly desired. Whether it's getting hits on social media, getting invited to desirable gatherings, or making it big in Hollywood or Nashville, people want to be known, to be memorable—often for the wrong reasons. It's noteworthy, then, that in 2017 the Lutheran church—and the world—marks a big anniversary involving one of our own (our founder, actually). Martin Luther didn't intend to become famous, and yet he changed the world, helping to usher in the modern era.

This little sheet doesn't have room to detail Luther's life and accomplishments, and you will probably be hearing a lot about them from many sources, so this will just provide a brief overview.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany but then was a separate principality called Saxony. His parents tried to give him a good education and hoped he would become a lawyer. Instead, when he was twenty-one he became a Catholic monk. He wanted to earn God's love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough. He punished himself mercilessly until finally a wise mentor sent him to study and teach Bible at the then new University of Wittenberg.



*Wittenberg in 1536*

Not long after he arrived there, he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people bought a certain document—an indulgence—it would provide God's forgiveness for their (or a loved one's) sins. Being a

university professor, he wrote a list of ninety-five sentences to debate about the topic. That list, the Ninety-Five Theses, stirred up a hornet's nest in the church and began the Reformation. He made them public on October 31, 1517—coming up on five hundred years ago.



For challenging the church and refusing to back down, Luther was called before the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, at a meeting in the imperial city of Worms. Asked to take back what he had written, he refused and was declared an outlaw. Anyone could have captured him and killed him or turned him in to authorities, in which case his death was likely. Fortunately, his own prince protected him, hiding him out in a castle where he began translating the Bible into German. In the process, he helped create the standard German language.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such as "A mighty fortress is our God." He was a passionate, sometimes crudely mannered man, and in later life he wrote terrible, cruel things about the Jewish people, statements for which the Lutheran church has apologized.

Yet Luther was a remarkable man, helping to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual, not just an atom in a sea of molecules, and, of course, reviving and reforming the church. He is a man worth celebrating!



PRESERVE, SUPPORT,  
AND SERVE

# SOME ELEMENTS FOR A LUTHERAN THEOLOGY FOR SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

## **A Revolutionary Theology?**

The late Will Herzfeld<sup>1</sup> was fond of telling the story of a priest in the Philippines who, many years ago, worked among the poor and the marginalized. This priest was not afraid to denounce the abuses of the government against its own people. Eventually the priest was arrested, accused of being a communist. While in prison his kindness won him the favor of some of the guards. One day he asked a guard if he could have a little piece of bread. The guard saw no harm in it and so agreed. Then the priest asked if he could also have a little bit of wine, to which the guard also acquiesced. The priest then proceeded to celebrate the liturgy of the eucharist. His cellmate asked him if he too could partake in the sacrament, and the priest agreed. The priest continued to celebrate holy communion frequently, and the prisoners in the cell immediately adjacent to them also asked if they could share in the bread and the wine. Even though they were Muslim and not Christian, the priest agreed. Eventually, according to Herzfeld, all prisoners in that section of the prison were breaking small pieces of bread and passing it from cell to cell. Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and others were all participating in the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ! However, soon the chief of the prison found out and became alarmed. Immediately he wrote an order for the guards. The order read as follows: “No more bread or wine for this priest. Bread and wine in the hands of this priest are dangerous revolutionary tools.”

The same could have been said of Luther and the other church reformers from the sixteenth century, not only in relation to the sacraments but also in regard to the gospel. We could say that the gospel in the hands of those preachers and teachers was a dangerous revolutionary tool. Through their pen and bold proclamation the gospel did in fact revolutionize and transform the Western world from the inside out, beginning with the church and extending to social institutions such as education and the economy. The message of the gospel as proclaimed by the reformers was so powerful that even they were not able to contain it, as seen in the sad incident of Luther’s furious attempt to contain the peasant’s revolt even after he had supported their cause as worthy and just. The gospel was and is wildly powerful beyond anyone’s control.

1 Will Herzfeld was the first and so far the only African American in the United States to be bishop or president of a national Lutheran church body. He was president of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, which later merged into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The story related here was told at a meeting of the former Board of the Division for Global Mission for the ELCA.

# AN ECO-JUSTICE REFORMATION FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Many Lutherans are committed to fostering an ongoing reformation that incorporates ecological justice into the full life, identity, and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There is now an “Eco-Justice Reformation 2017 Working Group,” an informal group of more than fifty pastors, teachers, and laity, calling for the church to address more fully the ecological crises facing creation.

The seeds of the resources needed for such a reformation are rooted in our Reformation traditions. We are called by scripture to serve and keep the earth, enjoined by our theological roots to honor God the creator, and led by a theology of the cross to seek justice in solidarity with the most vulnerable humans and now also with our most vulnerable fellow creatures.

The church can rise to this great work of our time with grace and love by renewing our worship, our theology, our ethics, and our spirituality to embrace God’s deep and abiding love for the whole creation and by reclaiming our human relationship with all of life.

The following are among the resources developed by the Working Group and available at <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/500th-anniversary-of-the-reformation>.

## Lutheran Foundations for an Eco-Reformation

- **Online Theological Resources:** Articles, lectures, videos, sermons.
- **Resources to be Published:** *Eco-Reformation: Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril* (Wipf and Stock, 2016); issues on eco-reformation in *Currents in Theology and Mission*; *Dialog*; and the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*; and some adult study guides.
- **Speaker Bureau for 2016–17 Events:** Profiles of twenty outstanding leaders available to address ecological reformation topics at synod assemblies, professional leadership conferences, and congregational lecture series.
- **Earthbound (Six-Part Video Series):** *Created and Called to Care for Creation* is available at a special discount for 2016–17.

## Educational Materials

- **Luther’s Small Catechism:** revised with questions and actions by an ELCA pastor to incorporate creation care into instruction for youth and adults.

# LIVING OUT THE SMALL CATECHISM

Most of us think of the Small Catechism as something to be memorized that teaches us how to understand life with God and other people. And it is that. But what if we put a more active spin on the catechism? What if we looked to it to inspire concrete actions we might take, thereby expressing its wisdom in positive deeds, not just words? That's what we will explore here. (If you don't have a Small Catechism handy, it is included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pages 1160–67, or it can be ordered from [augsbuorgfortress.org](http://augsbuorgfortress.org).)

The Small Catechism has six chief parts:

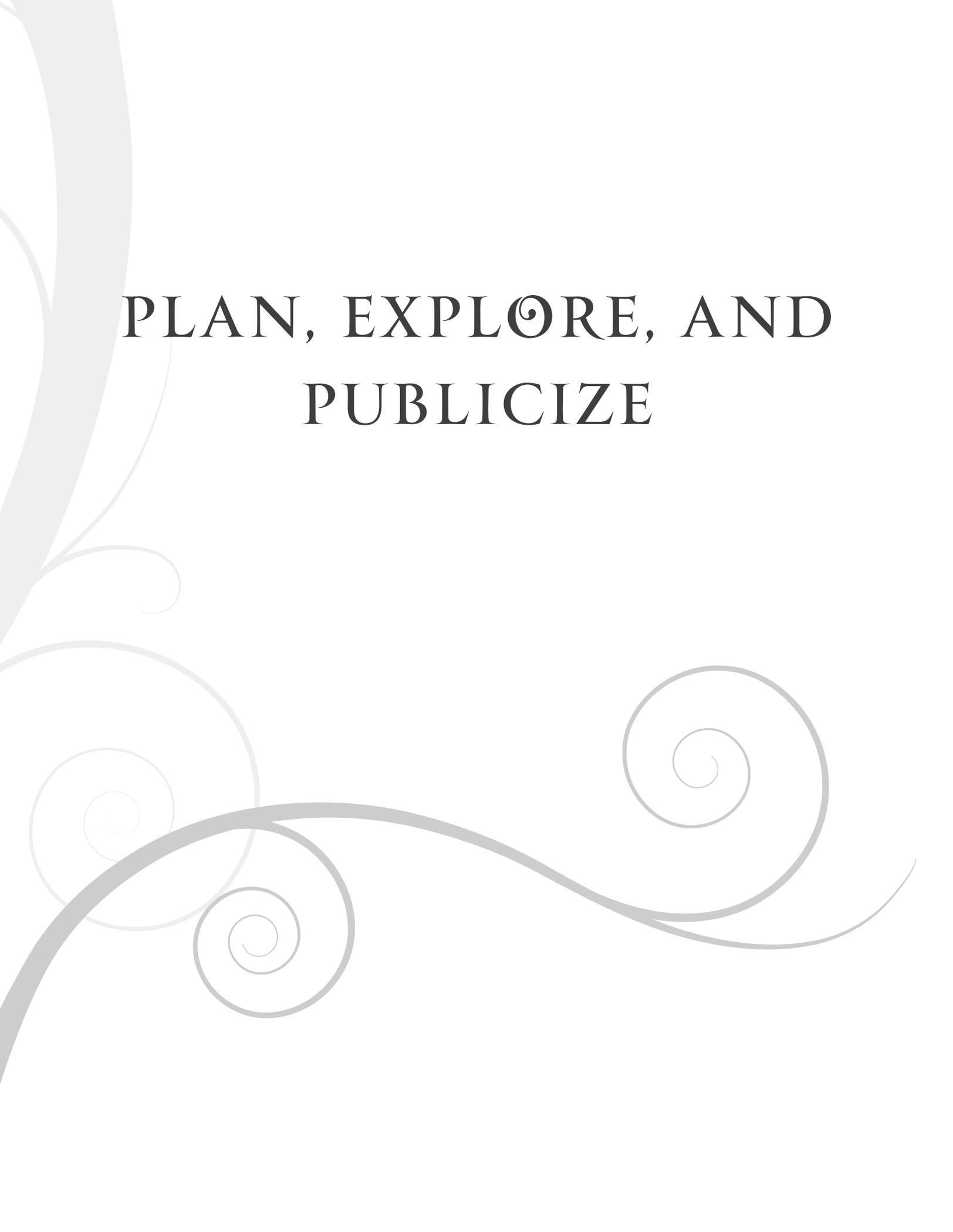
- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Holy Baptism
- Confession
- Holy Communion, or the Sacrament of the Altar

Of those, the last three are in a different category, more purely gifts of God and perhaps less adaptable to being spun out in deeds of service. So we will focus on the first three. Where might each of those lead us? Please keep in mind that this isn't meant to be an exhaustive list but rather something to seed your own imagination.

## The Ten Commandments

Commandments tell us what to do, or more often what not to do. Luther's commentary opens up these narrow strictures and leads us toward ideas for positive action.

1. You shall have no other gods.  
Explore other faiths, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism. Doing so need not threaten our own Christian beliefs, but will help strengthen understanding of their perspectives on God, create partnerships, and reduce harmful stereotypes. Read about them in a resource such as *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* (Augsburg Fortress), invite speakers from or about other traditions, visit their places of worship.
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.  
Get creative about prayer! One ELCA pastor has sat in a coffee shop with a FREE PRAYER sign. Let people know you are willing to pray for their concerns. Start a prayer ministry in your



PLAN, EXPLORE, AND  
PUBLICIZE

# ORGANIZING YOUR REFORMATION OBSERVANCE

## A Checklist

Congregations that observe their own anniversaries know that it takes time to plan. They often start a year or more ahead of time. And they often plan activities and communications spanning a year's time. Although the 500th anniversary date itself falls in October 2017, it's not too early to begin planning how you will bring life to this observance in a way that's suitable to your context. Here is a checklist of tasks, ideas, and questions to get you started.

### **Organizing your Reformation observance**

- Identify a group of leaders to carry this task forward. What areas of congregational life will be included? Worship and music, learning and teaching, service and public witness, hospitality and welcome are some of the areas most congregations would consider.
- Who will make up this group? If your events and activities are to be not just backward- but forward-looking, consider including people of a variety of ages and especially young people, who will carry the gifts of the Reformation into the next five hundred years. Think not only of people who have deep roots in the Lutheran Church but also those who are new to this expression of Christianity.
- Could your planning group include also a guest or two from outside your congregation, such as a representative from a local Roman Catholic parish or from a congregation of one of the ELCA's full communion partners? After all, this anniversary belongs to the whole church and not just to Lutherans, and it offers a great opportunity to connect with other Christians about where we all have come since 1517.
- Once your group is assembled, identify the goals and hoped-for outcomes for this anniversary in your setting. Be realistic and mindful of your capacities and the reality that this observance will best enhance your ongoing mission and ministry rather than distract from it.
- In advance of your first meeting, order or download selected resources that you will ask your working group to read and reflect on. In addition to this sourcebook and the resources it highlights, even more resource ideas can be reviewed by exploring the designated websites for the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress.
- Identify the time frame for your observance. Will it be the church year beginning with Advent 2016? One year, from Reformation 2016 to Reformation 2017? Only the fall of 2017? This decision will help you determine the scope for which you are planning.
- Begin to sketch out events and activities in one or more of the following categories or others you may think of.

# FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation draws near, a wealth of resources is appearing. Some of these are described elsewhere in this sourcebook, but here are some resources and websites worth looking into.

## Books

### *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans*

Edited by Kathryn Kleinhans. Available at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

*Together by Grace* serves as a rich resource for getting to know who Lutherans are, what they teach, where they come from, and where they are today. It includes sections on Lutheran basics, Lutheran history and practice, and a wide range of stories from the global Lutheran family. *Together by Grace* can be read by individuals, or each section can be used as a session for small or large group studies. A leader guide will be available as a digital download.

### *Papa Luther: A Graphic Novel*

By Daniel J. Maurer. Illustrated by Caitlin Like. Available at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

*Papa Luther* is an 80-page, full-color graphic novel—or comic book—for children ages 8 to 12, and is also suitable for older youth (and more than a few adults too!). The book tells the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation as seen through the eyes of his children. Perfect for individual reading, as well as in small or large group studies. A leader guide will be available as a digital download.

### *Luther's Small Catechism anniversary editions*

Available at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

Luther's Small Catechism is presented in three editions to mark the observance of 500 years of the Reformation era beginning in 1517 and to support the ELCA's catechism initiative in 2016–2017: a Study Edition with a new introduction by Timothy J. Wengert, new illustrations by Gertrud Mueller Nelson, notes, and supplementary content; a Pocket Edition containing the basic text; and a newly developed catechism mobile app, available through the principal app stores.

### *Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist*

Developed as a resource by the ecumenical offices of the ELCA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Available at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

*Declaration on the Way* celebrates fifty years of international and regional Lutheran–Catholic dialogues and harvests the results of those efforts into Statements of Agreement on church, ministry, and eucharist. It invites both communions to affirm the unity achieved through these agreements and establish

# REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE

## A Resource for Working with Your Local Media

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation under the theme “Freed and renewed in Christ.” The following resources and ideas are offered to assist ELCA congregations and communities of faith as they engage in communications about the anniversary both internally and with their broader communities.

### **Steps to Media Relations**

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to bear witness to the hope and joy we have through Jesus Christ. Many people will be asking about the significance of what happened 500 years ago when Martin Luther prepared and posted his 95 theses.

Connecting with the media in your community will create an opportunity to increase awareness of your congregation’s plans to observe this significant milestone. It’s also an opportunity to share with your community how your congregation serves its neighbors as Lutherans in today’s world.

Luther’s action started a dialogue that changed the way we receive and share the gospel, which continues today. This anniversary is an opportunity to communicate the Reformation’s significance for faith and life in the twenty-first century and the freedom we have in Christ that liberates us to joyfully serve our neighbors.

All ELCA congregations are encouraged to plan and participate in activities that prepare for this milestone anniversary. These activities will allow us to give thanks for the word’s power to free and renew all creation in Christ as well as provide an opportunity to emphasize the continuing work of reconciliation in the Christian church with our ecumenical partners.

Before engaging the media, you may want to consider these steps:

### **Build**

Build upon current relations with your local media as we approach the 500th anniversary. Ultimately, the media will decide what is newsworthy, but it will be helpful to be prepared to engage with your