

## 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

On the eve of All Saints Day 1517, a catholic monk named Martin nailed “95 theses” to the Wittenberg church door. Thus began the Reformation. The monk was Martin Luther and he was not trying to start a new church. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, he disagreed in conscience with some of the things the church was doing in his day. It was his desire to publicly debate these practices within the fellowship of the church. The common practice would have been, that a person who disagreed with him, would have chosen one of these topics, and the two of them would have held a debate. Instead the church demanded a retraction and Luther refused to do so. Because he had a powerful protector, he survived this initial encounter. There had been others before him who had raised important issues, but because Luther survived, this moment 500 years ago became the beginning of one of the most important reforms in the history of the Christian faith.

This was not just about the Lutheran Church, or the protestant churches. The reformation brought change and reform to the whole church eventually.

The church is always in need of some reform, whether we are talking about the whole church, a denomination, or an individual congregation. Our readiness to acknowledge our faults and failings, and to seek solutions leads to hope and new life.

On Reformation Sunday October 29, 2017, we will rejoice in the reforming power of the Holy Spirit, and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation. Join us for worship at 10:00 am.