

In case you haven't heard, this is the year we are commemorating the 500th year for reformation of the Roman church that "officially" began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted 95 theses or articles to be debated by church scholars. The reason why this act was not quickly squelched by the Roman Church was because of a recent invention—the beginning of the print media with the printing press. Luther's proposal had already been sent through the principalities of Germany. It was not possible to collect all copies and burn them as evidence. Of course Luther continued to use the print media when the Bible was printed in German. I have had the honor of seeing one of the original printed Bibles held safely in a vault in a Chicago library. [If you find a copy at a yard sale, you will be very, very wealthy.]

We will celebrate Reformation Sunday with a special worship service led by our youth on October 29th. We also plan to show Rick Steve's "Luther and the Reformation" during the fall festival on Oct 14 and 15 and at the Willing Workers dinner on October 26. [I'm trying to locate a DVD projector so we can project the movie on the wall in the choir rehearsal area]

Throughout this year the E. L. C. A. Magazine, *Living Lutheran*, has published a series called "Reformation 500" to inform us of many interesting things related to the reformation. We will have copies available in the narthex, but here is an example of what to read:

1. *The Small Catechism* [1529] including illustrations, was printed in poster format to aid parents in explaining what the basic elements of the Christian faith mean.
2. *The Augsburg Confession* [1530] is the basic statement of the beliefs of the Lutheran reformers. Primary author was Luther's colleague and Greek scholar Philipp Melanchthon.
3. The righteousness of God is not something God is, but what God does—God makes us righteous.
4. The Tower and Parish Church of St. Mary, Wittenberg, Germany is considered the "Mother Church of the Reformation." Luther preached hundreds of sermons here and the first celebration of the mass in German was held here. [Also they currently have a woman pastor. My observation during my tour in May 2016]
5. John Wycliffe (1329-1384) was an English theologian best known for being the first to translate the Bible into English. He also rejected papal authority and is the primary precursor of the Reformation.

My thanks to Elizabeth Muthler for organizing our "Reformation 500 Bookstore." A variety of resources on the Reformation for readers of all ages is on display in our narthex. She is taking orders until Oct. 15th. Books will be up to 50% off and free shipping.

Shalom,
Pastor Bev

