Reformation, we would like to trigger discussions around ongoing reformation. We invite you to join the discussions on the main theme of this anniversary …

Approaching the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will commemorate the 500 years of the Reformation. The Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, was released in 2013. This is the main global LWF event commemorating the 500 years of the Lutheran Reformation and harvesting the fruits of the programs, processes and dialogues that have taken place within the framework of Reformation 2017.

Reformation Day 2017 Liturgical Celebration is a virtual transmission of the Reformation Day celebrations from around the globe in a 24-hour sequence, including the ringing of the bells of the Stadtkirche in Wittenberg.

Ecumenical involvement

• From Conflict to Communion, the report of the Lutheran–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, was released in 2013. This is the first attempt by Lutherans and Romans Catholics to describe jointly the history of the Reformation. It is a useful tool for starting ecumenical discussions around the beginnings of the Reformation also in local settings. Drawing upon this document, a joint liturgy is being developed for occasions where Lutherans and Roman Catholics will commemorate jointly the 500 years of the Reformation.


• Reconciliation with Mennonites: follow-up action taken by the LWF Assembly in 2010 will be released in 2015, and will include examples of cooperation and joint worship between Mennonites and Lutherans.

• More plans with other major ecumenical partners are on the way.

For more information about Reformation 2017 see www.lutheranworld.org/reformation-2017

The subsite for the 500 Years of the Reformation will be launched in 2015.
31 October 1517: Luther posts his 95 Theses against clerical abuses and the sales of indulgences on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The Reformation begins.

1648: The Treaty of Westphalia is signed marking the end of the Thirty Years’ War between Catholics and Protestants in Europe and establishing the principle of cuius regio, eius religio. The principle of state sovereignty that emerged as a result of this treaty serves as the basis for the modern nation state.

1706: Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg, sent by the Danish King and the Danish Church, arrives at Tranquebar, South India. The Lutheran mission to India begins.

Lutheran mission to Africa begins with several mission societies from Germany and Scandinavia becoming active in different parts of Africa. A growing number of Lutheran congregations are founded in North and Latin America.

1947: The Lutheran World Federation, comprising 47 member churches, is founded in Lund, Sweden.

2017: The Lutheran World Federation holds its Twelfth Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia, under the theme: “Liberated by God’s Grace.”