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 is an international conference.

Reformers	Network

•	Youth	Conference	of	the	Global	Young

Thematic approach

Some exciting events ahead of us

Liberated by God’s Grace

Ecumenical

Liberated by God’s Grace

2017 - 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION

Engage in worship, study, networking, action and celebration

Creation is not for sale – the environment must be protected

Human beings are not for sale – every person is created in the image of God

Respond to the calling of Jesus Christ to love and serve the world

Reflect together on what it means to be liberated by God’s grace

Get involved locally, regionally and globally

Join us

We commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Started by Martin Luther, the Reformation movement began in 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany. Today as we prepare to commemorate the 500 years of the Reformation, we want to emphasize its global, ongoing and ecumenical nature.

The Lutheran World Federation will meet in May 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia, under the theme “Liberated by God’s Grace.” 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 Roman 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 2017.lutheranworld.org
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.

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.”

From Wittenberg... to Windhoek

Reformation Milestones

16th century 1517
17th century 1648
18th century 1706
19th century
20th century 1947
21st century 2017