

GLC observes the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation



As a church that believes the good news of Jesus Christ provides the freedom and the courage to boldly participate in what God is up to in the world, Glenwood Lutheran Church will observe the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation with events from October 2016 to October 2017.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany but then was a separate principality called Saxony. His parents encouraged a good education and wanted him to become a lawyer. The education he received provided the foundation to study the law or enter a cloister. Luther decided to enter the Augustinian order on July 17, 1505 in Erfurt, Germany. He continued his theological studies and during the next six years in Wittenburg he matured rapidly.

Luther struggled with his conscience and though he diligently confessed his sins, he could find no assurances that God was forgiving his sins. As a priest he would hear the confessions of his parishioners and realized that priests like himself were giving people an easy way out. The mechanical system of the church did not give people a way to change their behavior or to assure them of God's forgiveness.

Twelve years later, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther confronted this church system and posted 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg. In this document, Luther argues against the sale of indulgences which caused great discord in the church and began the Reformation. Luther's protest against the church helped to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual and helped set the stage for the Enlightenment. His dispute with the church helped to reform and revive it and would create a separate theological understanding which would lead to the creation of a new denomination – the Protestants.