

## Reformation 500th anniversary to be celebrated at Hope

The congregation of Hope will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation on Sunday October 30th with a reformation Sunday service at 10 am followed by a pot luck luncheon in Luther Hall.

Congregation members are asked to bring a covered dish if they are able.

On the eve of All Saints' Day, October 31, 500 years ago, a young Roman Catholic Priest named Martin Luther posted on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, a list of 95 theses, or statements, and requested a meeting of the church leaders to discuss and debate the substance of these 95 theses concerning church practices. Luther desired that the church would reform its practices to be more in keeping with the Word of God as contained in the Bible. What started as an academic debate – mostly over the selling of indulgences and the Grace of God – touched off a chain reaction that resulted in the events that we now call the Protestant Reformation. Luther had no idea what changes this simple act would bring upon the church—today, there are 104 million people worldwide who consider themselves Lutherans, according to the Lutheran World Foundation. So, why do we wear RED clothing on Reformation Sunday? We invite everyone to wear the liturgical color RED, on October 30th, because RED represents the Holy Spirit. Luther believed that the Reformation was a direct result of the Holy Spirit moving him and others to action. This day is a celebration of the Holy Spirit that continues to move us toward the grace and mercy of God even today.