



FOREVER REFORMATION

2017 Professional Church Workers' Conference Theme

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg church door. As it likely will turn out, 2017 will be about much more than the 95 Theses. Looking back on that posting, however, life for the church has not been the same from the time of that iconic scene; nor has it been the same for the Priesthood of All Believers, education, politics, science and economics. It's not clear whether Luther fully understood the ramifications of his action. He was not trying to be revolutionary. What's more, brother Martin was not the only personality responsible for the 16th century ecclesiastical paradigmatic shift, nor was he the first and only voice calling for head-to-foot church reform, but he did act, and his action effected a stir, an earthquake, to the then European status quo with results that continue to usher in the Kingdom of God wherever this Word of God is proclaimed.

2017 is named the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Church Workers of the Eastern District will gather in November in the City of Niagara Falls, NY, in celebration of FOREVER REFORMATION. We are living descendants of the Lutheran Reformation, under the banner "saved by grace through faith" in Christ alone. There is no other Savior who frees us to serve God and neighbor. The Word of God is sharp and active in our lives, in the church and in our world, calling us to FOREVER REFORMATION. The legacy continues in pulpits and classrooms alike, in our homes and workplaces, in universities and shopping malls, and wherever Christ comes through us to bring forgiveness, life and salvation.

The Lutheran Reformation happened centuries in the past, but for God's people in the Word of God, life is FOREVER REFORMATION where the Spirit dawns a new day and a new season upon us, frail children of man. The Reformation happened. It is in our history books. Yet reformation is always happening by the power of God's Spirit, and therefore, it is not a "done deal". We - our lives and our world - are forever being impacted by God's Word. There is always hope for positive and Godly change. Washed clean, equipped for service, fitted for the Kingdom, we "desire healthy leaders, vigorously equipping God's people for Kingdom growth."