Preparing to Remember the Reformation

Panelists: Bob Batastini, Peter Choi, Karin Maag, David McNutt, Mark Noll, Lisa Weaver, Joyce Ann Zimmerman, moderated by John Witvliet

In 2017, churches around the world, both Protestant and Catholic, will mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. How we mark this milestone will say as much about us, and our own sense of identity, as it does about the events of five centuries ago. Indeed, the history of past milestone anniversaries (100, 200, 300, and 400 years ago) reveals stunningly different ways of remembering this history—and some crucial lessons about what to avoid this time around. Come for a fast-paced tour of histories of the Reformation, and then a vigorous discussion by both Protestant and Catholic leaders about how we can do our remembering in profoundly sanctifying ways.

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1.	What is a theologically grounded <u>vision</u> for how churches (Protestant and Catholic) might commemorate the Reformation in 2017?
2.	What <u>emphases and themes</u> should we avoid? What should we embrace?
3.	Are there specific practices we should consider in our local communities?
	<u>Sources</u>
Tho	omas Albert Howard and Mark A. Noll, "The Reformation at Five Hundred: An Outline of the Changing Ways We Remember the Reformation," <i>First Things</i> (Nov. 2014).
Sar	rah Hinlickly Wilson and Thomas Albert Howard, "Repent and Celebrate: The Reformation After 500 Years," Christian Century (July 8, 2015), pp. 20-23.

Martin Junge, "Reformation and Enculturation: Toward the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation,"

Word and World, 34.2 (Spr. 2014): 109-122.

- Kurt Cardinal Koch (Swiss cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity), "The Commemoration of the Reformation as an Ecumenical Opportunity,"

 http://www.ekumenia.fi/data/liitteet/2015 helsinki-commemoration of reformation.pdf
- Maria Erling, "The ELCA at the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation," *Current in Theology and Mission* 42.4 (October 2015), 286-292.
- Margot Kässman, Ecclesia Reformata Semper Reformanda: Challenges of the Reformation Jubilee 2017," *Currents in Theology and Mission* 40.6 (Dec. 2013): 413-423.
- Alberto L. Garcia, "Reading Luther Latinamenta: Commemorating the 2017 Reformation from the Edges," *Apuntes*, 34.3 (Fall 2014): 91-107.
- Klaus Detlev Schulz, "Looking Ahead: Celebrating Martin Luther and the Reformation in 2017," Concordia Theological Quarterly 77 (Oct. 2013): 356-358.
- Duane Larson, "Can Lutherans Recapture Youthfulness at Middle Age? Anticipating the 500th Anniversary of Luther's Reformation," *Dialog* 51 (Spr. 2012): 2-5.
- From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017. Leipzig: Evangelische Vaerlagsanstalt, 2013.
 - A volume that offers perspective and guidance for joint celebrations.
 - Chooses the word "commemorate" instead of "celebrate." Raises the question of what exactly we remember, as well as how.

Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion—Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017. Liturgical task force of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity. Posted Jan. 11, 2016. https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-lrc-liturgy-2016_en.pdf.

A suggested order of service for Catholics and Lutherans (Protestants) together—

- Explicit opening Trinitarian greeting and closing Trinitarian benediction
- Acts of repentance, including Psalm 130
- Reading and joint preaching on John 15:1-5
- Commitments to 5 goals: begin from perspective of unity in Christ, look forward to transformation as we encounter each other, seek visible unity, together rediscover the power of the gospel for our time, witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world
- Use of the Apostle's Creed and Lord's Prayer

20-minute interview with Lutheran Prof. Timothy Wengert on a Catholic Comment radio program: http://cucatholicctr.org/2015/11/from-conflict-to-communion-commemorating-the-reformation/

Additional Lutheran World Federation Sources

"All of our events and processes are carried out in accordance with the three basic principles being followed during the LWF's anniversary celebrations. As we mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we wish to emphasize the polycentric character of the Reformation and the various contextual realities that gave rise to the Reformation movement. We also wish to pay close attention and find out which topics are able to move the people and societies of today, as part of an ongoing Reformation; and we will seek to celebrate the Reformation anniversary in a spirit of ecumenical openness, and deliberately take into account the results of ecumenical dialogue in the process of preparing the anniversary events."

https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/we are in the midst of commemorating the 500th anniversary of the reformation.pdf