



# Moments with Marty

August 2017



This year we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

In our support of this and as we **Live the Vision** for ourselves and for Christ the King Lutheran Church, each week through Reformation Sunday in October we will include in the Sunday bulletin "**Moments with Marty**," a brief explanation of Martin Luther, his work and its impact on us today.

It touches on who we are as Christians and as Lutherans, why we say and do what we do and how we worship. *Here is a collection of weeks twenty nine through thirty three in July and August.*

## Moments with Marty –week thirty one - August 6

Over the past weeks occasional quotes from Martin Luther have been inserted to complement the story. From the hundreds of published quotes, here is a small selection that illustrates the wisdom, faith and sense of humor Martin Luther had.

We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day.

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

Christianity can be summed up in the two terms faith and love...receiving from above [faith] and giving out below [love].

Show me where a man spends his time & money, and I'll show you his god.

I have so much to do today, I'll need to spend another hour on my knees.

I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.

People go through three conversions: The conversion of their head, their heart, and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time.

Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!

## Moments with Marty –week thirty two - August 13

The July 2017 ELCA magazine, *Living Lutheran*, contains an article by Rod Boriack, "50 things you may not know about the Reformation." Below is a handful of selections from that article. Some of these illustrate the Reformation's broader impact on religion in general. For the full article, go to [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) and click on the Reformation tab.

The Reformation created a demand for all kinds of religious writings. Readership was so great that the number of books printed in German increased from about 150 in 1518 to nearly 1000 six years later.

By the time Luther died, 30 editions of the small catechism had been published. By the end of the 16th century, there were an additional 125 editions in circulation and approximately 100,000 copies in print.

Prior to the Reformation, congregational singing – and even talking – during church services wasn't standard practice in Germany.

An emphasis on the involvement of lay people during worship revolutionized the way space inside the parish church was used during the Reformation. Many of the physical barriers between priest and congregation were removed. Consequently the interiors of local churches took on the appearance that many still have today.

Education was also set on a course of reforming thanks in part to Luther's advocacy and ideas that a proper, well organized and broad education for all children – not just those of the wealthy elite – would benefit the state as well as the church.

The area of Germany where Luther's story unfolded is now referred to as “Luther country.” This region of Reformation sites and history was part of East Germany for 40 years until the Berlin wall fell in 1989.

While the Reformation gave birth to Protestantism, today only two of the 10 countries with the largest Protestant populations are European.

### **Moments with Marty –week thirty three - August 27**

What is a catechism?

A catechism is a book of instruction, usually in the form of questions and answers. As early as 400 AD, Christians used a collection of texts as a basic summary for teaching the Christian faith and life. The texts, often referred to as a catechism, included the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and often certain biblical passages on Baptism, Confession, and the Lord's Supper.

Fast forward 1100 years; as Martin Luther ventured away from Wittenberg he realized the poor level of Christian instruction especially in the villages. Luther said, *“Good God, what wretchedness I beheld! The common people have no knowledge whatever of Christian teaching, and unfortunately many pastors are quite incompetent.”*

His solution was the Small Catechism, written in 1529, and is probably the most influential of all his works, shaping generations of Lutherans across several continents. It is widely used today in Lutheran churches as part of youth education and [Confirmation](#).

[It can be found on pages 1160-1167 of the red hymnal or http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechismpdf.php](#)

is an excellent resource that is easy to navigate.

*...continued next week.*