

Martin Luther (der 10. November 1483—der 2. Februar 1546)

Luther and Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther's daring revolution: The reformation 500 years on

In addition, Wittenberg-based painter Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son of the same name provide the Reformation with a face through their portraits of Martin Luther, as well as through depictions of the theologian's compatriots.



Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, as portrayed in this painting by Ferdinand Pauwels

Wittenberg is the epicenter for a wave of new thought whose affects reach as far as Rome. In June 1518, a heresy trial against Luther begins and some months later in Augsburg, the papal envoy Cardinal Thomas Cajetan interrogates the reformer, who steadfastly refuses to renounce his ideas. The following year Karl V (1500-1558) becomes the new emperor. He is yet another Luther opponent who sees himself as a protector of the existing Church.



A view today of the spire of the All Saints' Church (left) in Wittenberg from which Luther began his Protestant Reformation