

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

der 31. Oktober—REFORMATIONSTAG

Lutheran church

Within the Lutheran church, Reformation Day is considered a lesser festival, and is officially referred to as **The Festival of the Reformation**. Until the 20th century, most Lutheran churches celebrated Reformation Day on October 31, regardless of which day of the week it occurred. Today, most Lutheran churches transfer the festival, so that it falls on the Sunday (called **Reformation Sunday**) on or before October 31 and transfer All Saints' Day to the Sunday on or after November 1.

The liturgical color of the day is red, which represents the Holy Spirit and the Martyrs of the Christian Church. Luther's hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God* is traditionally sung on this day. It is also traditional in some Lutheran schools for schoolchildren to hold Reformation Day plays or pageants that re-enact scenes from the life of Martin Luther. The fact that Reformation Day coincides with Halloween is not mere coincidence. Halloween, being the Eve of All Saints' Day might have been an entirely appropriate day for Luther to post his Ninety-five Theses against indulgences since the castle church would be open on All Saints' Day specifically for people to view a large collection of relics. The viewing of these relics was said to promise a reduction in time in purgatory similar to that of the purchase of an indulgence. That Martin Luther intended his *Ninety-five Theses* to persuade the common people, however, is extremely unlikely, since they were written in Latin, a language which the common people did not understand.



Biblia

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach..."^[34] This passage, traditionally interpreted as referring to Luther,^[35] is commonly the text preached on during Reformation Day services.

Roman Catholic stance

On October 31, 1999, officials of the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation signed the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification regarding some of the issues at the root of the Reformation. While this statement was praised for helping clarify centuries of misunderstanding, a number of scholars, especially Protestant converts to Catholicism, starting around the 1990s, have been criticizing the Reformation for being unbiblical and unfaithful to the doctrines and practices of the early Church.

Reformed church

Although not shaped by Luther's doctrine, Calvinist churches throughout the world do not regard the Reformation Day as less important, and celebrate it in a similar manner to Lutherans. The nailing of the *Ninety-five Theses* sparked the discussion about Catholic beliefs and practices of the day. Reformed theology first emerged with Huldrych Zwingli in Switzerland who decided to participate in this European-wide discussion after seeing Luther's postulates; all this would not have happened without the events of 31 October 1517. Theological conversations caught on with French priest John Calvin joining it soon after Zwingli.