



Outreach ideas for Reformation 500 from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation presents Lutheran congregations and their members across Canada with an unprecedented opportunity to tell their communities about God's grace and His love for them in Jesus Christ. We've put some ideas together to help get the process started.

If you have other ideas you'd like to add, send them to helpful@lll.ca and we'll consider them for the list and publish them on our LLL-Canada Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LutheranLaymensLeagueCanada/>

1. Ask the congregation to come up with ideas for reaching out to the community during 2017.
2. To support Lutheran Church-Canada's RSVP church worker recruitment program, set a Reformation500 goal to send in the name of at least one person as a potential future church worker. <http://www.canadianlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/RSVP-Revisited-2017.pdf>
3. Build a Lego Luther Seal to commemorate the Reformation. Instructions are at <http://baseplate.com/mosaics/luther/> . Send a photo of people building it to your local paper and post it on your website and Facebook page too.
4. Plan ahead: Ask a local music group to feature an evening of music by Bach or Mendelssohn—both Lutherans—in their fall schedule. Let them know you'll support the concert.
5. Add the Reformation 500 logo www.canadianlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LCC-Reformation-logo-web-English.jpg and link to your website www.reformation2017.ca/
6. Use St. Valentines Day to talk about God's grace and His undeserved love for us
7. Buy a copy of the Luther movie (2003) for your church library www.amazon.ca/Luther-Joseph-Fiennes/dp/B0002C9D9U/
8. Add to your email signature the www.Reformation2017.ca website link and logo www.canadianlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LCC-Reformation-logo-web-English.jpg
9. Plan for a Reformation themed VBS <http://vbs.cph.org/>
10. Conduct a neighborhood Bible study using the Martin Luther DVD resources from LHM-Canada www.lll.ca/reformation
11. Pledge to raise \$500 in 2017 to support LHM-Canada's partner office in Nicaragua, present a seminary gift, or fund a mission project.
12. Create an Easter-oriented community event with a Reformation focus on Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.
13. Look for ways to tie into your community's celebrations of Canada's 150th birthday

14. Hold a Reformation sport event/tournament, walk-a-thon or Reformation500 Fun-Run to raise funds for a local charity that focuses on serving your neighbour.
15. Organize a community hymn sing featuring well-known Lutheran hymns from each of the last five centuries that reflect the Reformation themes.
16. Use Reformation500 as a catalyst to assess and reinvigorate your engagement with the surrounding community <http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/community.php?s=outreach>
17. Use your church sign to communicate Reformation themes to your community: Grace, Faith, Scripture <https://www.amazon.ca/Signs-These-Times-Church-That/dp/0570053307/>
18. Host a Reformation seminar for the Christian churches in your area.
19. Enter a Reformation-themed float in a community parade. With Canada's 150th birthday there may be more Canada Day parades in which you can spread the word about Reformation500.
20. Hold a Reformation Open House and offer tours of your church noting how Reformation theology influences design and architecture. Describe what has changed and what has remained the same in 500 years of Lutheran church design.
<http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/openhouse/churchtourdefinitions.pdf>
21. Organize a public reading of the Augsburg Confession for June 25. Facebook Live the event and let local media know about.
22. Geo-cache a Small Catechism and a Play-Mobil Luther statuette on your church property or in your local park. www.cph.org
23. Ask the municipal council to declare October 31, 2017 Reformation 500 Day. Supply a Luther Rose flag or Christian flag for city hall!
24. Download and print the Reformation posters at <http://www.here-i-stand.com/en/> , mount them on cardboard or coroplast/foamcore and set them up in a public place like a library.
25. Invite the community to a Reformation Theme Fun Fair at your church with games like
 - A. *Throw the Inkwell at the Devil* – throwing wet sponges, cream pies, at a cardboard "devil".
 - B. *Nail the Most Theses to the Door in 60 seconds* – 2 or 3 or more people at a time race to see who can nail 95 strips of wood each with a few words of one of the 95 theses printed on it in 1 minute.
 - C. *Stuff the Wurst* – a relay race where each team splits up with about 10 metres between them. One team member stuffs 3 pieces of cloth into a shirt sleeve and runs to the other end where another team member stuffs 3 more rags into the sleeve and runs back to the other end where another team member stuffs in 3 more, etc.
 - D. *Dunk Tetzl* – Dunk the Punk with a Reformation twist!
 - E. *Faith Alone Blindfolded Obstacle Course* – be creative!
26. Establish "sister congregation" relationships with congregations in other International Lutheran Council church bodies. Encourage members to establish "penpal" or Facebook friendships with members of those congregations. www.ilc-online.org
27. Ask a local sport team to designate a "Lutheran night" with discount tickets for members of local congregations. Provide the PA announcer with a short description of the Reformation and why Lutherans are celebrating the 500th anniversary
28. Post a picture of the award-winning LHM Rose Parade float on your church's website or Facebook page with a brief message about Grace, Faith, and Scripture Alone.

29. Host a “drive-in” showing of the Luther movie for the community on the wall of your church or at the community park. <https://www.amazon.ca/Luther-Joseph-Fiennes/dp/B0002C9D9U/>
30. Have a “Grace Alone” (free) car wash for your community. Have handouts available to explain what Grace is all about.
31. Have a sign made for your church yard: “Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation — Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone
32. Host a Reformation community picnic or block party at the church
<http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/community/BlockPartyGuide.pdf>
33. Have buttons or t-shirts made up for your congregation members that say: “Ask me about my 500-year-old church”
34. Put a Project Connect Junior display rack in your local library, featuring the LHM Martin Luther/Reformation booklet. www.ill.ca/booklets
35. Visit a local school and offer to make a presentation on the Reformation and the lasting impact of Martin Luther on today’s society.
36. Make available copies of LHM booklet “A Treasure Revealed” to schools including Catholic schools and French immersion schools (The booklet is available in English and French)
www.ill.ca/reformation
37. Have Sunday school children or confirmation classes create a Reformation timeline
38. Submit an article to your local paper about the relevance of the Reformation 500 years later
39. Host a Reformation-era Potluck using recipes from the 1500s. Research Reformation-era recipes and have congregation members choose what they would like to make. Encourage your members to bring a neighbour or friend along.
40. Reconnect with members you haven’t seen for a while by sending them a letter about the Reformation 500 anniversary, include the LHM booklet “A Treasure Revealed” and let them know about celebrations and events you have planned. www.ill.ca/reformation
41. Ask your high school youth and university students to tailor their research papers and other projects to Martin Luther/Reformation themes. Offer to give them guidance.
42. Arrange a congregational event and show the 1953 film “Martin Luther.” Don't forget popcorn!
<https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B00006JDUS/>
43. Sing, hum or whistle *A Mighty Fortress* as you walk down the hallway at work. Enjoy the curious looks you get. Engage with the people who ask you what you’re doing or why you’re singing or whistling.
44. Donate Reformation/Lutheran books (Book of Concord, Small Catechism, Lutheran Service Book etc.) to your local library and school library. www.cph.org
45. Challenge your computer-programming-savvy young adults to develop a “Pokemon Go”-like program featuring Martin Luther in various places around your community (or around the world.)
46. Hold an annotated Divine Service that explains the various parts of the Liturgy.
<http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/openhouse/NLOHworshipexp.pdf>
47. Send an email to congregation members that includes a link to www.reformation500.ca and encourage them to talk to family and friends about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian during the Advent and Christmas season based on Faith, Grace, and Scripture alone.
48. Collect Bibles in the languages of refugee families in your community. Invite them to your home and give them the Bible as a gift from your congregation (no strings attached!).

49. Sponsor a German beer night with a local pub and place Reformation pamphlets on each table.
50. Ask your local library to include the *The Canadian Lutheran* in their magazine section. Offer to supply a copy of each new edition.
51. Have the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, or John 3:16 translated into the languages prevalent in your community. Have multiple copies printed on business cards. Encourage your members to have them ready to hand out whenever and wherever they encounter people who speak one of those languages. Include your church address, phone number and website. Translations are available at www.biblegateway.com
52. Get a group together to gather for prayer regularly at Tim's. Invite everyone there to join you in the Lord's Prayer.

What are your ideas for 53 and onward? Send them to helpful@ill.ca