



OCT 31, 2021 | REFORMATION SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE

REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

Happy Reformation Sunday! According to our history books, it was on October 31, 1519 that Martin Luther posted a protest document containing 95 theses against the practices of the Roman Catholic Church to the door of the church at Wittenburg, Germany. Luther's protest was an attempt to reform the Church that has become known as the Protestant Reformation. His study of the letters of Paul, particularly the letter to the Romans affirmed for Luther that our salvation was not something we might earn but was the freely given gift of God through Jesus Christ. Luther did not compose new words but offered a fresh understanding of faith.

Luther's protest against abuses in the Church would lead to a movement throughout Europe and inspire others including John Calvin in Switzerland and John Knox in Scotland. The roots of the Presbyterian Church lay with these two Reformers.

In Mark 12, Jesus cites a foundational understanding of the law, "Hear, O Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is One; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." He summarizes the Law of Moses as love of God and love of neighbor. We discover how different and radical that message is as we read the story of Jesus and hear his call to discipleship.

A vital congregation is one in which members are continually growing in their knowledge of God and themselves. Lifelong discipleship needs lifelong learning and constant awareness of God's new word for each generation. Our motto as a Reformed Church is this: the Church reformed, yet always being reformed according to the Word of God.

Happy Reformation Day!
Edward