



November 1, 2017

REFORMATION AND THE SAINTS

This week marks two significant days in the story of the Christian church. October 31 was the 500th anniversary of the day when Martin Luther affixed his 95 theses to the door of the chapel at the University of Wittenberg, sparking the Protestant Reformation. At the time, Luther was a monk in the Roman Catholic Church and a professor of Biblical Theology at the University, but he saw clearly the corruption of the church he so dearly loved and sought to reform it. Luther had no intention of establishing a new church, but history took its course.

The Protestant church gets its name from the history of making a healthy protest against the dishonesty and corruption within a church that we deeply love. The life of faith is a continual reformation within the transformational love of God.

This Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate All Saints' Day, which officially falls on November 1. All Saints' Day is a special day to remember and to give thanks for all who have gone before us. We remember the saints who were among the first followers of Jesus: Simon Peter and Mary Magdalene. We give thanks for people such as Francis and Clare of Assisi, who have been great examples of the faith. And we give thanks for those saints whom we have recently lost, remembering them in worship.

In our Protestant tradition, we consider all of God's people to be saints. It doesn't mean that we are all perfect (the saints were never perfect). It means that the grace of God makes us whole.

May these special days deepen our faith in the wideness of God's grace.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister