

Common Commemoration of the Reformation—2017

From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran Catholic-Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017, Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, 2013 (available on both the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity] websites), Evangelische Verlagsanstalt: Leipzig, & Bonifatius: Paderborn, 2013.

Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017 (available on the Lutheran World Federation Website), Liturgical Task Force of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity.

Study Guide for From Conflict to Communion, written by The Planning Committee of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Greensburg, The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA, 2015 (available on the website of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other websites).

Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist, Commissioned by the U. S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2015 (available on the USCCB and the ELCA websites).

A Shared Spiritual Journey: Lutherans and Catholics Traveling toward Unity, Susan K. Wood and Timothy J. Wengert, New York: Paulist Press, 2016.

One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ, Julie K. Ageson, John Borelli, John Klassen, Derek Nelson, Martha Stortz, Jessica Wroblewski, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress and Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2015.

Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999), Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000 (available on the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity] websites).

October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World, Martin E. Marty, Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2015.

Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide, Timothy Wengert, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2015.

Trent: What Happened at the Council, John W. O'Malley, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013.

Reading the Bible with Martin Luther, Timothy J. Wengert, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013.

Martin Luther: An Ecumenical Perspective, Walter Kasper, New York: Paulist Press, 2016.

Hope of Eternal Life: Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue XI, Lowell G. Almen and Richard J. Sklba, Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2011 (also available on the websites of the ELCA and the USCCB).

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TWO JOINTLY PREPARED TEXTS

From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran Catholic-Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017 (2013, available on both the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity] websites)

The first imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

The second imperative: Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.

The third imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.

The fourth imperative: Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

The fifth imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist, Commissioned by the U. S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2015, available on the USCCB and the ELCA websites)

1. Implement consequences of the 32 agreements on church, ministry and Eucharist
2. Create a process and timetable for addressing remaining issues
3. Expansion of opportunities for receiving Holy Communion together
4. Address together the moral issues that are often deemed to be church dividing
5. Deepen common activities already well-established

a. PRAYER: Week of Prayer for Unity and other opportunities for prayer and study together

b. EDUCATION: develop common religious education opportunities, bible study, seminary and post-doctoral education, review of common statements

c. COLLABORATION: permanent working groups and commissions; serve those in need together; develop ways for collaboration in prayer, study and service; enter into covenants; meet regularly on an ongoing basis, for example, pastors reviewing sermons and sermon themes together, bible study groups, and reading groups