



Local Catholic and Lutheran churches celebrate 500 years of similarities - and differences

Congregations worship together in honor of the Protestant Reformation

LEE'S SUMMIT, October 29, 2017 - Halloween means more than scary costumes and candy to Catholics and Protestants alike - it is also the date of the start of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German Catholic monk, posted a 95 theses of issues he had with the state of the church at the time. His ideas prompted what is now known as the Protestant Reformation - the starting point of Protestantism - which includes Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist faith traditions (along with others, Protestants comprise the second largest form of Christianity world-wide).

And while the Reformation was a departing point between Catholics and Protestants, the two faith traditions have in recent years worked toward celebrating their similarities while amending their differences. "We have more in common than not, and in a sense, we are all being reformed in our own ways. In Christ we are all a new creation, which is worth celebrating," says Reverend Christyn Koschmann, pastor at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit. "Martin Luther didn't mean to split the church, but in doing so, both Protestants and Catholics alike have been encouraged to use critical thinking in regards to our faith, which was exactly what Luther wanted."

To commemorate and celebrate, local Roman Catholic and Lutheran congregations will gather together at **4pm on Sunday, October 29th at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (1800 MO-150, Lee's Summit, MO 64082)** to worship and fellowship. Both Catholic and Lutheran pastors, priests, and lay people will lead the service. "We have deep respect for each other, and it's fitting that we celebrate our partnership and cultures together," says Reverend Koschmann. She and Father Paul Turner (Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception) will preach. A cookie reception will follow.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church is a welcoming and affirming congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; www.mlchurch.com

