

13 weeks before *Reformation Sunday*

REFORMATION HISTORY FACT

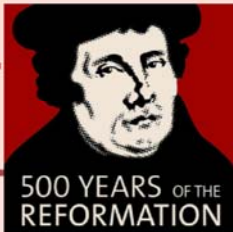
BREAK WITH ROME INEVITABLE

During the year following contentious debate between Martin Luther and Johann Eck, Luther produced three remarkable documents: *The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, *Prelude on the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and *On the Freedom of a Christian*. These publications advanced his view that a break with Rome was inevitable in order to rescue Christians from their "captivity" by the Pope. He again argued for a Christianity based on faith rather than works, and further developed the concept of the "priesthood of all believers" in contrast to a church administered by the papal hierarchy.

As the conflict between Luther and the papacy intensified, Eck travelled to Rome where he assisted the Pope in drafting a response to Luther. Entitled the *Exsurge Domine*, and issued on June 15, 1520, the document demanded that Luther recant 41 of the 95 Theses that the Pope found unacceptable, even "scandalous" in their content.

Luther rejected the papal bull, as it was called, and on December 10, 1520, he cast the document and other books into a fire that he identified as "the eternal flames of Hell." In response, the Pope excommunicated Luther on January 3, 1521.

REFORMATION
1517



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Presented by the Johnsons,
St. Mark's Lutheran Church in
Springfield, Virginia and



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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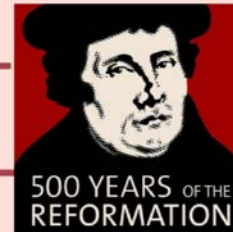
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