

FIRST AND CENTER
Pastor's Blog
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This weekend, many Protestant churches across the world will be remembering that 500 years ago Martin Luther ignited a spark that had been burning for some time among Christians in Europe. He posted 95 propositions for debate (popularly called his “Theses”) about the issue of selling indulgences, which helped shorten the sinner’s time in purgatory, and, by the way, enriched both Prince and Church. Others protested against the Roman church for centuries, but Luther’s action, combined with easy access to information because of the newly-invented Printing Press, lit a fire that changed the world, and today, we call what happened the Reformation.



Two quick thoughts on two words: Protestant and Reformation. Note the roots of these words: Protest and Reform. Some, like Jan Hus, had given their lives for protesting the excesses of the church. Protest is at the very center of the change in church and world 500 years ago. When we call ourselves Protestants, we remember and reclaim the great call to Protest, seeking justice and love.

Reform. Many of us will remember the old phrase “Semper Reformanda”: always reforming. That’s the other part of being Protestant. By our very nature, we are always on the lookout for how the church, and the society, needs to be reformed. Re-formed. Made new. Because God is always doing a new thing! Do we not see it?

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
Pastor