

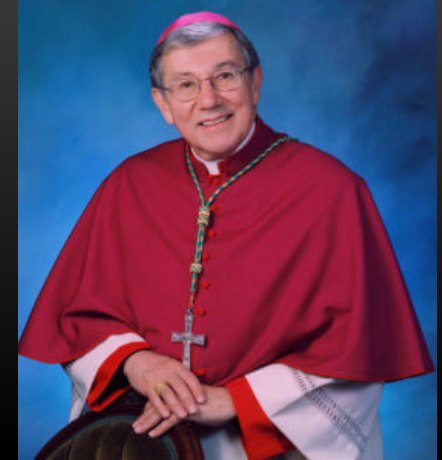
SEMPER REFORMANDA

Religious Wars, Inquisitions, Ecumenism and Irrelevance, O My!

COMMEMORATING 500 YEARS

- Ecumenical endeavors surrounding this milestone
- Pope Francis in Lund, Sweden October 31-November 1, 2016 to inaugurate year of commemoration
- No one in the 16th century could have imagined this!





Lutheran World Federation: Commemorating Reformation, NOT celebrating

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Denis Madden, Bishop in Baltimore, Committee on Ecumenical and Religious Affairs for the US Conference of Bishops

October 30, 2015: “Declaration on the Way” to full unity

Background: 1962-65 – Vatican II;

1980’s – Pope John Paul II publically apologizing for the burning of Jan Hus and the excommunication of Martin Luther; preaching in a Lutheran church in Rome commemorating the 500th anniversary of Luther’s birth, instructing Cardinal Willebrands to work with Lutherans on what they can affirm together;

1999 – Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification –Lutherans and Catholics; joined this year by the Reformed churches

EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH REFORMATION

Wars

- Kappel Wars, Switzerland, 1525-1531
- Schmalkald Wars, Germany, 1547, 1552-1555
- Wars of Religion, France, 1562-1598
- Eighty Years War, Netherlands, 1568-1648
- Thirty Years War, central Europe, 1618-1648
- English Civil Wars 1642-1651, Protectorate, 1653-59, Restoration



- Inquisitions
- Purifying the “blood” – Spain and Germany
- Increasing fragmentation through theological controversy, 16th century until today



VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE CONTRIBUTES TO IRRELEVANCE



HUMAN BEINGS DESIRE THE LIVING GOD



- How is God leading River Road Church Baptist to reform in order to communicate the living presence of God in our religiously pluralistic, globally connected world?
- What specific changes will have to take place in the way worship and community are understood here?
- Where will you have to go to take the Gospel to the people in a format and using language they will understand?

