



## A REFORMATION TIMELINE

The world was changing. New scientific discoveries had opened pathways for understanding more about our complex universe. The ocean, once feared for its danger and depth, was tamed for travel and trade. Peasants and workers, laboring under harsh and relentless conditions, sought revolution. The bubonic plague had claimed the lives of about 75 million people from 1347 to 1351. It continued to reappear and panic European cities. Political alliances, long forged between pope and prince, fractured as power centers shifted. Gutenberg's press (1455), the first to use moveable type, transported ideas from one person to the next with swiftness and ease. As the medieval era collapsed into the modern, changes seemed everywhere and limitless.

Yet even during these changing times one thing remained constant: our God, who grants forgiveness and grace to His people through Jesus Christ. Despite advances and transformations in science and society, politics and publication, God was working. He gave hope and life by His Spirit through Word and Sacraments. He bestowed comfort and joy in trying and often perilous situations. In changing times, His promises through His Son did not change, nor will they ever. They will never be altered, nor revoked. His Word pronounces us righteous through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. He alone is our Life and our Peace.

The following Reformation Timeline has been provided to aid you in reading *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*. Significant people and events in the "Old World" as well as the "New" have been included for the years 1436 to 1600. Additional references include scientific discoveries, substantive works of art, and the arrivals of European explorers to the Americas. Items in bold indicate writings and events specifically relating to the Lutheran Confessions.

This timeline confirms what we know by experience: change will take place. But in changing times God's Word reminds us that He is always faithful to His people. With hearty confidence and trust we can say with King David, "My times are in Your hands" (Psalm 31:15).

## — 1400 —

- 1436 John Gutenberg invents moveable-type printing press
- 1440 Leif Eriksson draws first known map of America
- 1448 Portuguese establish first trading post in Africa
- 1449 Lorenzo de' Medici born, January 1

## — 1450 —

- 1450 Portuguese bring African slaves to Cape Verde Islands  
Inca Empire flourishes in Peru
- 1451 The Vatican Library founded  
Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa orders Jews in the Netherlands to wear identification badges
- 1452 Leonardo da Vinci born, April 15
- 1453 Constantinople falls to the Turks
- 1455 Gutenberg Bible printed
- 1456 Pope sees comet; calls for prayer against "The Devil, the Turk, and the Comet"
- 1457 King James II of Scotland bans football (soccer) and golf for distracting young men from combat training
- 1459 Jacob Fugger, Imperial banker, born, March 6
- 1463 Frederick the Wise born, January 17
- 1465 Johann Staupitz born
- 1466 Erasmus born
- 1468 John the Steadfast born, June 30
- 1472 Lucas Cranach the Elder born in Kronach, Oberfranken
- 1473 Copernicus is born, February 19

## — 1475 —

- 1475 Michelangelo born, March 6
- 1481 Spanish Inquisition against Jews, Muslims, and heretics begins
- 1483 Raphael, artist, born, April 16  
Martin Luther born in Eisleben, November 10; baptized November 11

Nicholas Amsdorf born, December 3

- 1484 Ulrich Zwingli born, January 1  
Papal bull condemns witchcraft; inquisitors sent to Germany
- 1485 John Bugenhagen born at Wellin, Pomerania, June 24  
Gregory Brück born at Belzig  
Botticelli paints *The Birth of Venus*
- 1486 John Eck born, November 13
- 1487 Diaz sails around the Cape of Good Hope
- 1492 Columbus reaches the Americas  
First lead pencils used  
Corn discovered by Columbus  
First known reference to tobacco  
Ferdinand and Isabella expel 100,000 Jews from Spain
- 1493 Justas Jonas born in Nordhausen, June 5  
Pope divides discoveries in the New World between Spain and Portugal
- 1494 Charles VIII of France invades Italy  
Sulayman the Magnificent born, November 6  
Earliest report of Scots making whiskey
- 1495 Da Vinci begins painting *Last Supper*; completed 1497  
William Tyndale born in Slymbridge, England
- 1496 Michelangelo begins sculpting *Pieta*  
Santo Domingo founded in New World  
Pope Alexander VI gives his son as hostage to Charles VIII of France
- 1497 Philip Melancthon born, February 16  
Copernicus makes first recorded European astronomical observations, March 9  
Dürer publishes *Apocalypse* woodcuts  
Hans Holbein the Younger, artist, born in Augsburg  
Savonarola hanged in Florence, May 23  
John Cabot discovers Newfoundland

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| <p>1498 Vasco de Gama reaches India<br/>Toothbrush invented</p> <p>1499 Katherina von Bora born in Lippen-<br/>dorf, January 29<br/>John Brentz born in Weil, Württem-<br/>berg, June 24<br/>Louis XII of France seizes Milan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—1500—</p> <p>1500 Charles V born in Ghent, February 24<br/>Pope Alexander VI proclaims Jubilee<br/>Year; calls for crusade against Turks<br/>Aldus Manutius, Italian printer who<br/>founded the Venice Academy for the<br/>study of Greek classics and invented<br/>Italic type, born<br/>World population estimated at 400 mil-<br/>lion, 100 million in Europe and Russia</p> <p>1501 Luther enters University of Erfurt<br/>(receives Master of Arts in philosophy,<br/>1505)</p> <p>1502 Michelangelo begins sculpting <i>David</i><br/>Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony,<br/>founds University of Wittenberg<br/>First portable timepiece created in<br/>Nürnberg</p> <p>1503 John Frederick the Magnanimous born<br/>at Torgau, June 30</p> <p>1503 Da Vinci begins painting the <i>Mona Lisa</i></p> <p>1504 Philip of Hesse born in Marburg,<br/>November 13</p> <p>1505 Luther in thunderstorm, July 2; enters<br/>monastery, July 17</p> <p>1506 Pope Julius II lays cornerstone of St.<br/>Peter's Basilica, Rome<br/>Luther takes final vows as Augustinian<br/>Monk, autumn</p> <p>1507 Luther ordained priest at Erfurt<br/>Cathedral, April 3<br/>Luther celebrates first Mass, May 2;<br/>begins study of theology</p> <p>1508 Michelangelo begins painting Sistine<br/>Chapel; completed 1512</p> | <p>Luther appointed substitute lecturer<br/>in moral philosophy at University of<br/>Wittenberg</p> <p>1509 John Calvin born in Noyon, France,<br/>July 10<br/>Luther obtains Bachelor of Theology<br/>degree, March 9; returns to Erfurt<br/>Henry VIII becomes king of England<br/>Pope Julius II excommunicates the city<br/>of Venice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">— 1510 —</p> <p>1510 First African slaves brought to the New<br/>World (Haiti)<br/>Luther sent to Rome on mission for<br/>Augustinian order<br/>Wheelock firearm introduced in<br/>Nürnberg, Germany</p> <p>1511 Luther sent to Wittenberg University to<br/>serve as professor, takes over chair of<br/>Staupitz at Wittenberg</p> <p>1512 Luther awarded Doctor of Theology<br/>degree, October 18–19<br/>Fifth Lateran Council begins; ends in 1517</p> <p>1513 Ponce de Leon reaches Florida<br/>Portuguese explorers reach China<br/>Balboa reaches Pacific Ocean<br/>Pope Leo X begins pontificate, March 11<br/>Luther's "tower experience," spring<br/>Luther begins lectures on Psalms</p> <p>1514 Albert of Brandenburg, cardinal, Arch-<br/>bishop of Mainz, and elector, begins<br/>his reign</p> <p>1515 Luther begins lectures on Romans<br/><i>Index of Prohibited Books</i> adopted at<br/>Fifth Lateran Council<br/>Coffee from Arabia appears in Europe</p> <p>1516 Erasmus publishes <i>Novum Instrumen-<br/>tum</i>, first Greek New Testament<br/>Luther begins first lecture series on<br/>Galatians<br/>Reinheitsgebot law enacted in Bavaria<br/>to assure pure beer</p> |
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