Call for Papers, Performances, and Exhibits:


What do Martin Luther’s controversial condemnation of the peasant’s uprising (1525), beer making in the 16th century (perhaps including a field trip), and a Reformation parody of “Hamilton” all have in common? Rumor has it that each will be presented at the college-wide symposium, “The Reformation of Everything, 1517-2017” on October 31. This announcement serves as a call for papers, performances, and exhibitions and is open to emeriti/ae, current faculty, staff, and students. We will begin evaluating submissions on May 7, and will continue through the summer months.

Luther College’s year-long Reformation Commemoration is “bookended” by two events. The first was the Liberating Grace conference (March 31-April 1, 2017), which focused on the spiritual dimensions of the Reformation and how the impulses coming out of that movement still enliven the work of the church today.

This symposium, which represents the other bookend, will shift the emphasis toward the Reformation as an historical event and its subsequent impact on society, thought, and culture. Historically the Reformation has been credited with setting the West on the path to modernity: religious pluralism led to toleration and individualism, which led to human rights, which led to democracy, which led to our modern world. The keynote speaker, Prof. Brad Gregory of the University of Notre Dame, will challenge that thesis, suggesting that the Reformation, in fact, set Western Culture on the path to secularization, hyper pluralism, consumerism, and moral relativism. Which is true? Are they both?

The remainder of the day will be divided into a series of one-and-a-half hour sessions comprised of two thirty minute or three twenty-minute presentations (with time for questions) and we welcome submissions of individual presentations, pairings, or full panels. For performances, we ask that you provide their approximate length so that we can combine them with others in the framework of the sessions. If you know of natural pairings or combinations, please include that information. As to exhibitions, please provide the type of space required and, if possible, ideas for places on campus that would work best for you.

Proposals should be submitted online at: https://www.luther.edu/reformation-2017/conferences/proposal/. Also, please pass this information on to students or anyone else you think might be interested. Questions may be directed to me at (chiro05@luther.edu) or any of the following members of the Reformation Commemoration Committee: Greg Peterson, Victoria Christman, Soeren Steding, David Njus, Mike Blair, and Todd Pedlar.