Timeline of Luther’s Life

1483 July 6: Martin Luther born in Eisleben, Germany

1505 Begins study of Law

1505 July 2: Vows to become monk after thunderstorm

1505 July 17: Enters Augustinian order to become a monk

1507 Conducts his first Mass

1511 Transferred by Staupitz to Wittenberg from Erfurt

1513-16 Lectures on Psalms, Romans, and Galatians at U. of Wittenburg

1517 October 31: Announces 95 Theses in Wittenberg

1518 April 26: Heidelberg Disputation

1519 July 4–14: Debates Eck at Leipzig, Sola Scriptura is realized by Luther

1520 *Treatise on Good Works*, *To the Christian Nobility*, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and *The Freedom of a Christian* are published

1520 Pope Leo X issues papal bull giving Luther 60 days to recant

1521 April 16–26: Luther’s defense at the Diet of Worms

1521 May 4: Luther is hidden at the Wartburg castle

1522 Luther’s German translation of the New Testament published

1524 Peasants’ War begins.

1525 Luther marries Katherine Von Bora, a former nun

1525 Luther publishes *On the Bondage of the Will* against Erasmus

1529 Marburg Colloquy (Luther & Zwingli split over the Lord’s Supper)

1530 June 25: The Augsburg Confession is presented

1546 February 18: Martin Luther dies at age 62 in Eisleben, Germany

**Further Reading**

Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press), 1950.

Heiko A. Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and the Devil* (New Haven, Conn.; London, 2006).

F. Bruce Gordon, Zwingli: *God’s Armed Prophet* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021).

**Questions?**

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**Reformation Unleashed: Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli (1483- 1546)**

Church History Core Seminar | Class 6 of 13

Introduction: Is the Reformation Over?

#### “The Holy Bible… is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.” (*Statement of Faith*, Article V).

# Context: Councils and Humanism

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## Conciliarism

### Western Schism (1378-1417)

### Council of Constance (1414-1418)

## Humanism

### Desiderius Erasmus (1469-1536)

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# Martin Luther (1483-1546)

## Life & Background: the Terror of God’s Righteousness

### Luther the Monk

#### “If ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, it was I.”

### Luther the Professor

## Indulgence Controversy

### 95 Theses (October 31, 1517)

### The Diet of Worms (April, 1517)

#### “Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

# Huldrych Zwingli (1484 - 1531)

## Life and Background

## Humanism and “Ad Fontes!”

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#### “Before anyone among us had heard the name of Luther, I had begun in 1516 to preach the Gospel of Christ. When I entered the pulpit, I did not preach the words of the Gospel lesson appointed for the mass that morning, but rather from the biblical text alone.”

## Expositional Preaching

#### “All our work, who preach the Gospel… consists only in preaching how we find the assurance of our salvation in the death of the living Son of God.”

## Patient Reforming Work

#### “Behold the grandeur of the Christian shepherd! He feeds the flock with painstaking watchfulness, and does not constrain except as far as the word itself constrains.”

## Partnerships with Friends

#### The Marburg Colloquy (October 1529) and Split between Luther and Zwingli over the Lord’s Supper

## Battle of Kappel and Death (October 11, 1531)

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