

## **10-30-17 Five hundred**

Tomorrow is All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween, a fun day of costumes for kids and adults. But for Western Civilization there are fewer days that have changed the course of culture and religion like that of Oct. 31, 1517.

Five hundred years ago this week a monk, professor, and priest named Martin Luther went to the church in Wittenberg, Germany, and nailed his 95 Theses, or objections, to the door. He was upset at the Roman Church for a variety of reasons, and his intent was to start a debate among scholars over the issues he posted.

However, timing is everything, say the comedians.

Luther had no intention of starting a new church, only to reform it. But Europe was in the middle of the Renaissance with its new ideas and explorations. The Church, however, was stuck in Medieval thinking. Add to that the newly invented printing press, and Luther's ideas spread throughout Europe.

So, on Halloween, let's give thanks for ideas that reform our tired, scary, and worn-out ways of seeing God.

Just a Thought. I'm Sid Batts from First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greensboro, across from Fisher Park.