Journey with Martin Luther and learn about the significant places in his life as we reflect on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Starting Ash Wednesday, March 1st, fill in one square for every 15 minutes of physical activity. For example: walking, swimming, yoga, or aerobics. Anything that gets you actively moving COUNTS! If you exercise for 30 minutes every day, you will complete the journey in six weeks. If you complete the journey before six weeks, you may begin a new map if you wish. All maps need to be returned to the church office by Thursday, April 20th.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________________________________________
Martin Luther was born in Eisleben in 1483. He also died there in 1546 at the age of 63.

He attended the University of Erfurt 1501-1505 in preparation to study law. The plan changed when he was caught walking in a thunderstorm and bargained with God to become a monk if he lived through it. Luther lived at the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt from 1505 to 1511. He studied theology at the University of Erfurt in 1507, after being ordained as a priest.

Luther’s supporter Prince Frederick had him taken to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach in 1522 to hide from his opponents as “Knight George”. It is here that Luther translated the New Testament.

In 1521 Luther is excommunicated and summoned to appear before the Diet in Worms, where Emperor Charles V demanded that he recant his teachings. When Luther refused, Charles V issued an edict banning Luther and his teachings.

Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest university town. Luther presented his beliefs to the Augustinian Order in 1518. He received mixed reviews with many older professors criticizing his ideas and many students embracing them and helping him spread these new beliefs in southern Germany.

In 1525 Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun who fled from a convent near Grimma, and had taken refuge in Wittenberg in 1525. Katharina and Luther had six children. Katharina ran the household; managing the finances, brewing the beer, and gardening.

After receiving his doctorate in Theology in 1512, Luther became a Theology Professor at Wittenberg University and priest at the City Church in Wittenberg. It was at this time while studying the Bible, he had a spiritual enlightenment and understood we are saved by grace and not by works. He was disturbed by his parishioners choice to buy indulgences (their salvation) instead of coming to confession. Luther preached against the indulgence trade and wrote a letter to his superiors with 95 theses to start a discussion. Tradition has it that he nailed his letter to the Castle Church doors on October 31, 1517.

In 1510, Luther represented the Augustinian Order at a meeting in Rome. To get there he walked around 1,000 miles through the Swiss Alps into Italy. He averaged 26 miles a day and spent his nights at monasteries along the way. It was the season of advent, so he endured snow and less meat.

Sources: www. germany.travel; www.luther.de; www.visit-luther.com