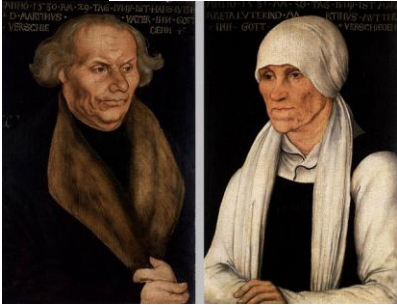


A Reformation Era Facebook Page

Martin Luther

Family:



Father - Hans Luder (ca. 1459 † 1530) [Lucas Cranach the Elder]

Mother - Margarethe Lindemann Luder (1463 † 1531) [do.]

Hans Luther, originally Luder, was born in Möhra, central Germany. In 1484, he moved with his wife and son to the town of Mansfeld, in Saxony, where he found employment as a copper miner, became the lessee of several large smelting centers, and was one of four elected members of the town council.



Wife - Katharina von Bora (1499 † 1552), ca. 1526 [Lucas Cranach the Elder]

Children -

[No Image] **Johannes** (1526 † 1575)

[No Image] **Elisabeth** (1527 † 1528)



Magdalena (1529 † 1542), ca. 1540 [Lucas Cranach the Elder]

[No Image] **Martin** (1531 † 1565)



Paul Luther (1533 † 1593)

[No Image] **Margarethe** (1534 † 1570)

Friends, Colleagues, Allies, and Advisers:



Johann von Staupitz (ca. 1460 † 1524)

Johann von Staupitz was the vicar general of the Augustinian Order in Germany. In 1511, he recommended that Luther be transferred to the monastery at Wittenberg, where the following year the young monk was appointed subprior. In 1512, Luther succeeded him as Professor of Biblical Literature at the University of Wittenberg. In Luther's own words, Staupitz "saved" the reformer by giving him valued advice and redirecting him away from the monastery halls to the university, and toward his life's work. In Staupitz's later years, their relationship became strained.



Argula von Grumbach (1492 † 1554)

Argula von Grumbach was a prolific and widely read pamphleteer, letter-writer, and early apologist for Luther, Melancthon, and other reformers.

[No image] **Katharina Schütz Zell** (1497/8 † 1562)

Born into a family of master carpenters from Strasbourg, Katharina Zell was the husband of Matthäus Zell, an excommunicated priest, and one of the most important pamphleteers and letter-writers of the Reformation.



Elisabeth of Brandenburg (1510 † 1558)

Elisabeth of Brandenburg, married to Eric I, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, was one of the most important early supporters of Luther, whom she knew personally.



Friedrich the Wise, Elector of Saxony (1463 † 1525)

Friedrich the Wise was the Elector of the Saxon state through some of the most turbulent years of the early Reformation. One of the first nobles to champion the cause of the reformers, he offered Luther his protection after the Diet of Worms, and implemented the Reformation in his state. In 1502, he founded the University of Wittenberg, where Luther, Melanchthon, and others would later teach.



Franz von Sickingen (1481 † 1523)

A wealthy German knight, with extensive hereditary landholdings in southwestern German, along the Rhine. He fought for Maximilian I, helped bring about the accession of Charles V, and was later a defender of the Reformation cause. With Ulrich von Hutten, he led the ill-fated Knights' Revolt against Charles V and the Papacy, a military action which later inspired the widespread Peasants' War of the mid-1520s.



Ulrich von Hutten (1488 † 1523) [Erhard Schön]

Born in central Germany to a poor, noble family, Ulrich von Hutten was a poet, scholar, and soldier who, during his short life, published an extraordinary body of work, including satires, letters, orations, dialogues, polemics, treatises, and miscellaneous poems. A fierce opponent of the papacy, he died, like his friend Franz von Sickingen, in the Knights' Revolt of 1523.



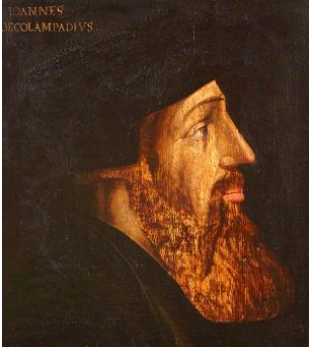
Georg Spalatin (1484 † 1545)

Spalatin was born the son of a tanner, in Spalt, a town outside Nuremberg. He was the personal adviser and translator to Friedrich, Elector of Saxony, as well as a diplomat during the troubled early period of the Reformation.



Justus Jonas (1493 † 1555)

Born Jodokus Koch in Nordhausen, until 1519 Jonas was rector of the University of Erfurt. After the Leipzig Disputation of that year, he began a long correspondence and friendship with the reformer. He is best known today for his collaborative work on the Luther Bible, and for his translations of Luther, Melancthon, and others.



Johannes Œcolampadius (1482 † 1531) [Hans Asper]

Œcolampadius was an important reformer, theologian, and Hebrew Scholar. Erasmus, Zwingli, Eck, Melanchthon, and Luther were all friendly with him. His views were diverse, and though a supporter of the Reformation cause, he was a follower of no one.



Philipp Melanchthon (1497 † 1560) [Hans Holbein the Younger]

Melanchthon was born in Bretten, southwestern Germany. The first systematic Protestant theologian, he wrote the *Loci Communes* in 1521, a revolutionary exposition and defense of Lutheran belief whose arguments were derived not from theological commentaries, or the scholastic tradition, but from the Scripture itself. Between 1521 and 1525, the *Loci Communes* went through seventeen editions, and effectively created a new point of departure for dialogue and exegesis. Well-known as one of Luther's closest friends and colleagues, Melanchthon nevertheless disagreed with the reformer on certain points of doctrine, and advocated a more moderate position toward the Papacy. (*see*, for example, his written reservations on Luther's unreserved denunciation of the Pope as the Antichrist, in the roll-call of signatories at the end of the Smalcald Articles).



Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466 † 1536) [Hans Holbein the Younger]

Erasmus was indisputably the most important scholar living in Europe during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. He may be considered the representative man of his time. He was long critical of the abuses of the Catholic Church, and condemned the use of indulgences and relics, but he stopped short of rejecting the Papacy itself. His revised editions of the Old and New Testaments were indispensable for later translations into the European vernaculars. His *Colloquies*, *The Praise of Folly*, and certain other satirical or polemical pamphlets are still influential.



Johann Reuchlin (1455 † 1522)

The brother of Philipp Melancthon's grandmother, Reuchlin was born in Pforzheim, southwestern Germany. He may be considered the greatest Hebrew scholar in Renaissance Germany, and his work was hugely influential on the later translation of the Old Testament.

Artists:



Leonardo da Vinci (1452 † 1519), ca. 1512

Born illegitimately in Vinci to a public notary and a peasant woman, Leonardo da Vinci was a master painter, sculptor, architect, mathematician, scientist, engineer, inventor, musician, writer, and his own name has become synonymous with the concept of "Renaissance man." His mark and his influence can be felt in almost every field of human endeavor, but he is perhaps best known for his great paintings, each of which has become iconic in the history of Western art, especially *The Last Supper* and the *Mona Lisa*.



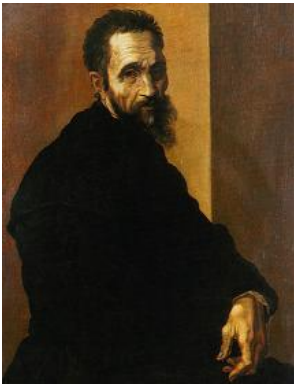
Raphael (1483 † 1520), ca. 1503

Born in Urbino, Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino) was an Italian painter and architect. Along with Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, he one of the three great painters of the High Renaissance. Among his works are *The School of Athens*, *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, and his portrait of Pope Julius II.



Titian (ca. 1488 † 1576)

Along with Tintoretto and Paolo Veronese, Titian was one of the three great Venetian painters of the late Renaissance. Born in the small town of Pieve di Cadore, north of Venice, influenced by Giorgione, and trained in the workshop of Giovanni Bellini, Titian is known for his striking and original use of color, unparalleled in the history of Western art. Notable works include his early *Assumption of the Virgin*, the *Venus of Urbino*, and *Bacchus and Ariadne*.



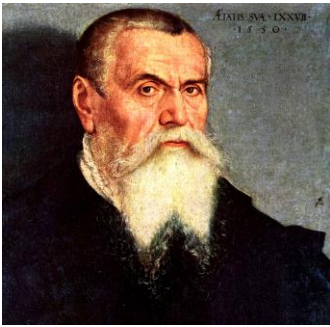
Michelangelo (1475 † 1564), ca. 1535 [Jacopino del Conte]

Michelangelo, born outside Florence to a family of bankers and small-scale officials, was one of the greatest sculptors, painters, poets, and architects of the High Renaissance. In his twenties, he completed his marble sculptures, the *Pietà* and *David*. In his thirties, he carved his *Moses*, commissioned for the tomb of Pope Julius II, and finished the fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Among numerous other paintings and sculptures, many of which have been lost, the altarpiece of the Sistine Chapel, *The Last Judgment*, a representation of St. John's Apocalypse, is best known. One should also note his designs for the St. Peter's Basilica, and his hundreds of sonnets and madrigals, many of them masterpieces.



Albrecht Dürer (1471 † 1528), ca. 1500

Born in Nuremberg to a family of goldsmiths, of Hungarian descent, Dürer was the most important painter of the Northern Renaissance. His treatises on geometry and human proportion, and especially his woodcuts and engravings, are noteworthy and of lasting value.



Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472 † 1553), ca. 1550

Born in Kronach, Bavaria, Lucas Cranach the Elder was born into a family of painters. Attached during his career to the Saxon court at Wittenberg, he eventually came into contact with some of the most important reformers and leaders, including Martin Luther. The subject matter of his paintings, engravings, and woodcuts reflects his court position, and the friendly relations he enjoyed with many of the principal figures of the Reformation.



Hans Holbein the Younger (ca. 1497 † 1543), ca. 1542

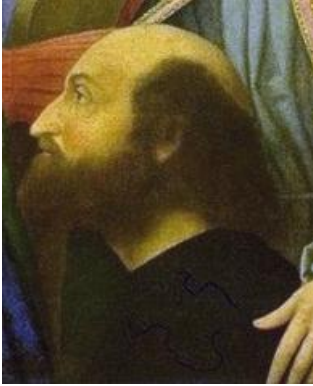
Born in Augsburg into Holbein family of painters, Holbein the Younger, like Cranach the Elder, is best known for his portraiture. Spending most his later life in England, during the Reformation, he worked in the court of Henry VIII, and painted almost all the important men of his time. We see Thomas More, Thomas Cranmer, Erasmus, and dozens of merchants, women, and nameless individuals through his perceptive eye.

Writers:



Niccolò Machiavelli (1469 † 1527) [Santi di Tito]

Machiavelli, in *The Prince*, is perhaps the most important political philosopher of the Renaissance. His historical work, especially *The Discourses on Livy*, and his plays, in particular *The Mandrake*, are permanent parts of the Western Canon.



Ludovico Ariosto (1474 † 1533), ca. 1512 [Vincenzo Catena]

Ariosto was born in Emilia, Northern Italy, and lived most of his life at the court of the House of Este, in Ferrara. There, beginning in 1506, he wrote *Orlando Furioso*, the epic poem interweaves the historical and fantastical stories of Orlando and Angelica, Ruggiero and Bradamante, Rinaldo, Marfisa, Brandimarte, and many others, against the backdrop of the war between the knights of Charlemagne and Agramante, the Saracen king. Its influence on later art, music, and literature is immense.



Baldassare Castiglione (1478 † 1529), ca. 1515 [Raphael]

Castiglione was born into a noble Mantuan family, and after a thorough education in Milan was appointed as a diplomat to the Gonzaga family. He later took up a position at the court in Urbino, where he remained until the last years of his life. In 1528, *The Book of the Courtier* was published, a learned, humane, and elegant dialogue on the subject of the Renaissance courtier, framed around the life of the court at Urbino.



François Rabelais (ca. 1494 † 1553)

Rabelais was the author of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, a series of five satirical novels, and one of the founders of modern French literature.

Challengers:



Johann Tetzel (1465 † 1519)

Tetzel was a Dominican priest and, on the appointment of Leo X in 1517, commissioner of indulgences in Germany.



Giovanni di Lorenzo de' Medici, Pope Leo X (1475 † 1521), ca. 1518 [Raphael]



Cardinal Thomas Cajetan (1469 † 1534)

Thomas Cajetan (Tommaso de Vio) served as the papal legate in Wittenberg during the Augsburg Diet of 1518. After Luther had addressed a letter to Pope Leo X, which contained a refutation of charges held against him, including accusations of heresy and factionalism, the Pope ordered Luther to show himself in Rome within 60 days as a heretic against ecclesiastical authority. Cajetan himself delivered the citation. After Friedrich, the Elector of Saxony, interceded, the order was dropped, but Luther did appear before Cajetan at Augsburg, where he was cross-examined but ultimately refused to recant his position.



Cardinal Girolamo Aleandro (1480 † 1542)

Aleander was the papal nuncio (ambassador) at the coronation of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, in 1519. That same year, he oversaw the opposition to Luther at the Diet of Worms.



Cardinal Albert of Hohenzollern, Elector of Mainz (1490 † 1545), ca. 1526 [Lucas Cranach the Elder]

In 1517, Albert of Mainz engaged for Johann Tetzel to come to Wittenberg to sell indulgences for the *alleged* purpose of renovating St. Peter's Cathedral at the Vatican, but in fact to repay a large debt he owed to the Fugger banking family, and to widen his own domains. Luther, whose own experiences on his pilgrimage to Rome in 1510 had influenced his views on indulgences and many of the corrupt practices of the Papacy, wrote his *95 Theses* in response to this new state of affairs. Albert passed the *Theses* on to the Pope, who immediately brought charges against Luther.



George, Duke of Saxony (1471 † 1539), ca. 1534-39 [Lucas Cranach the Elder]

A cousin of Friedrich the Wise, George "The Bearded" aligned himself against the reformers, while also condemning what he viewed as certain corrupt practices of the Catholic Church.



Johannes Eck (1486 † 1543)

Born in Swabia, southern Germany, Johannes Eck was one of Luther's primary antagonists. He debated publicly with Luther and Andreas Karlstadt at Leipzig, in 1519. During that debate, Luther admitted his doubts of the divine right of the papacy, and the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, and stressed the supreme authority of scripture. He also expressed his doubts about the legitimacy of the General Council in Rome. The next year, Eck himself delivered the papal bull *Exsurge Domine*, which found Luther guilty on 41 different points, and ordered him either to recant within 60 days or face excommunication. In December of that year, Luther publicly burned the bull outside the Elster Gate at Wittenberg. [Also, his involvement in the Augsburg Confession & the Colloquy of Worms.]



Thomas Müntzer (ca. 1489 † 1525)

Müntzer, originally a follower of Luther after the Leipzig Debate, later came out against him. He was an important Anabaptist theologian, and a popular leader in the Peasants' War.



Thomas More (1478 † 1535), 1527 [Hans Holbein the Younger]

Sir/Saint Thomas More was a close adviser to King Henry VIII (with and for whom he wrote two pamphlets against Luther), and an opponent of the Reformation both in England and on the continent. His unwavering allegiance to the Catholic Church later put him in conflict with Henry, who had declared himself Supreme Head of the Church after breaking with the episcopal See in Rome. After refusing to recognize the legitimacy of Henry's title, Thomas More was charged with treason and beheaded.

Other Political Figures:



Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor (1459 † 1519), 1519 [Albrecht Dürer]

Son of Frederick III and Eleanor of Portugal, he ruled from 1493 to 1519.



Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (1500 † 1558), ca. 1532 [Titian]

Son of Philip I and Joanna the Mad, he ruled as Holy Roman Emperor from 1519 to 1556, and King of Spain from 1516 to 1556. Two years before his death, he abdicated his thrones to his brother, Ferdinand I.



Henry VIII of England (1491 † 1547) [Hans Holbein the Younger]

The son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, Henry VIII ruled from 1509 to 1547.



Francis I of France (1475 † 1540), ca. 1530 [Jean Clouet]

Son of Charles, Count of Angoulême and Louise of Savoy, Francis I ruled as King of France from 1515 to 1547.



Suleiman the Magnificent (1494 † 1566), ca. 1530 [Titian]

The son of Selim I, Suleiman I “The Magnificent” ruled as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566.

Other Religious Figures:



Adriaan Florenszoon Boeyens, Pope Adrian VI (1459 † 1523), ca. 1523

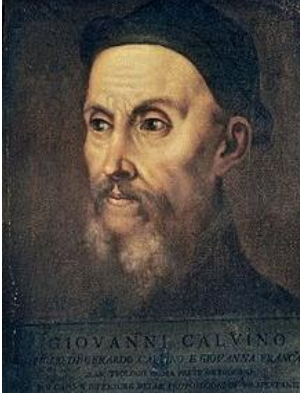
Pope Adrian VI (1522-23), in his brief tenure as reigning pontiff, seemed unlikely to adopt a more conciliatory attitude toward the reformers than his predecessor. One of his first acts, at the 1522 Diet of Nuremberg, was the renewed demand that the Edict of Worms be enforced by all followers of Luther.



Giulio di Giuliano de' Medici, Pope Clement VII (1478 † 1534), ca. 1531 [Sebastiano del Piombo]

In 1524, Clement VII called a second Diet at Nuremberg, in which he pledged to enforce the Edict of

Worms as far as he was capable. During his tenure, the Church shifted political alliances in response to Francis I's invasion of Northern Italy, placing himself in opposition to Charles V and his allies. Soon thereafter, Rome was sacked and Henry VIII of England declared himself Supreme Head of the Church.



John Calvin (1509 † 1564)

At Basel in 1536, John Calvin published his great theological treatise, the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which he revised and expanded in later editions, though never deviating from the positions he first stated and maintained at the age of 26. That same year, at the insistence of Guillaume Farel, he came to Geneva where, for the rest of his life (with a brief interlude between 1538 and 1541, when he was thrown out of the city) he worked as a teacher, writer, administrator, and churchly statesman, ordering and dictating the affairs of the citizens and churchgoers.



Guillaume Farel (1489 † 1565)

Guillaume (William) Farel was one of Calvin's closest colleagues and advisers in Reformed Geneva.

[No image] **Marie Dentière** (ca. 1495 † 1561)

Marie Dentièrre was an important writer and theologian, and a close associate of Calvin and Farel in Geneva. She is best known for leading a campaign to close the convents within the city, and for her 1539 pamphlet *Epistre tres utile*, which called for the expulsion of Catholic priests and monastic orders from France.



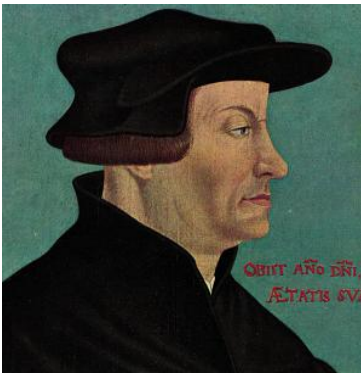
Marguerite de Navarre (1492 † 1549)

The sister of Francis I of France, Marguerite de Navarre was an important writer, adherent and champion of the Reformation in France, and patroness of the arts. She supported writers and painters as diverse as Rabelais, Marot, Ronsard, and Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years at her estate, where he was buried in 1519. Among her best-known works are the *Heptameron*, a collection of short stories in the manner of Boccaccio's *Decameron*, and the long devotional poem, *Miroir de l'âme pécheresse* (The Mirror of the Sinful Soul).



Martin Bucer (1491 † 1551)

Martin Bucer was a leader of the Reformed Church in Strasbourg, a close associate and friend of Melancthon, a mediator between Zwingli and Luther, and an important influence on the English Book of Common Prayer, and an important advocate of Protestant unity. He was involved with and personally knew nearly every important Protestant reformer during the first half of the 16th century.



Ulrich Zwingli (1484 † 1531) [Hans Asper]

While a clergyman in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, Zwingli observed firsthand the depth and extent of theological ignorance among the Swiss Christians, and saw the extortionate abuses, superstitions, and corruptions of the Roman Church. It was in Einsiedeln, in 1516, that he first began to inveigh and preach

against these abuses of the church, to develop his Christology (1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus”), his view that salvation was the result of God’s grace, not by virtue of man’s efforts, and the fundamental Reformation doctrine of *sola scriptura*. His early career, and the evolution of his ideas, present a fascinating parallel and counterpoint to Luther’s own, especially because, by the late 1520s, their views, particularly on the Eucharist and other aspects of the liturgy, began to diverge.

The democratically governed city of Zurich in which Zwingli preached, at the Grossmünster, also throws an interesting comparative light on Calvin’s Geneva, where similar conflicts emerged between Catholics, Anabaptists, and Reformed Protestants – conflicts often of a civil and political nature. The development of the Reformation in Switzerland progressed as quickly as it did among the Wittenbergers, but in a different way, with profound implications and changes in the life of the church leading to changes equally broad and far-reaching in the life of the state. Only in the Swiss cantons and cities, which exercised a wider degree of independence from larger political structures than was possible in France, England, Italy, or the Holy Roman Empire, could rigidly theocratic governing councils emerge and thrive. Geneva is of course the greatest (and in some ways the most unsettling) of examples, but similar trends can be found in Zurich.

Zwingli was a prolific writer, and is best known for his major treatise, *On True and False Religion*.



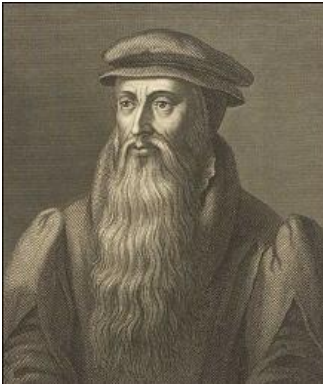
William Tyndale (c. 1494 † 1536)



Thomas Cranmer (1489 † 1556), ca. 1545 [Gerlach Flicke]



Thomas Cromwell (1498 † 1543), ca. 1532 [Hans Holbein the Younger]



John Knox (ca. 1513 † 1572)

A man of action, rather than a writer or theologian, John Knox came of age while the Reformation was at its height in France, Switzerland, Germany, and England. Trained as a Roman Catholic priest, the successive martyrdoms of Patrick Hamilton and George Wishart at St. Andrew's were the determining events which prompted his total and final support of the Protestant cause in Scotland and abroad. As with Calvin, Knox's political thought is inseparable from his religious convictions. The founder of the Presbyterian Kirk in Scotland, his life and career spans the troubled period between the reigns of James V (and his French Catholic consort, Mary of Guise) and Mary Stuart, in Scotland, and the shifting political and religious landscape between Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I of England.



Michael Servetus (1509/11 † 1553)