We often associate Martin Luther and his Reformation of the Church with changes in theological understanding and impact on the German language through his path-breaking bible translation. But the Reformation’s influence on social institutions, such as the home, the school, and the workplace, are arguably as great and as long lasting. This presentation will trace these developments in German society into the Eighteenth Century.

October 2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s posting of his 95 Theses Against Indulgences - the event traditionally regarded as the start of the Protestant Reformation. This movement, and the simultaneous movement for reform within Roman Catholicism, helped transform the fabric of western society in both the short and the long term, and in ways both intended and unforeseen. This talk will examine the modern legacies of the Reformation, particularly as they relate to on-going concerns such as pluralism and the accommodation of difference, the relationship between church and state, and the place of religion in secular society.