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**Chicago, August 24, 2017**—To commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and in recognition of the ecumenical progress among once-estranged faith communities, Lux Cantorum Chicago (née Lutheran Choir of Chicago), on October 30, 2017, will present a program celebrating the power of reconciliation.

The concert, which will be at St. Luke Lutheran Church (1500 W. Belmont in Chicago), will offer works that represent a cross-section of 16<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup>-century Catholic and Protestant choral music. The program will feature standards like *A Mighty Fortress*, *Beautiful Savior*, *Now Thank We All Our God* and *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*.

Sacred choral music is at the heart of the Reformation. Sparked in 1517 when Martin Luther challenged the sale of indulgences, the movement profoundly changed Western Christianity. One change was an expansion of congregational singing in worship. Luther, himself a musician, believed that “next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” The songs he and others wrote—simple hymns in everyday language—became a powerful engine for spreading the reformers’ teachings of God’s forgiving and reconciling mercy.

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been an occasion for expressions of reconciliation and healing between the Christian communities that were so long divided by mistrust, as in last year’s Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation. Through the Lutheran World Federation Assembly, Lutherans offered an official apology to Mennonites, for their persecution of them in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A number of Lutheran churches have also taken the opportunity to renounce Luther’s anti-Jewish writings.

Lux Cantorum Chicago itself has evolved from its 1947 founding for members of Lutheran churches into a community chorus that welcomes singers, from diverse spiritual and religious backgrounds, to join in its commitment to the transformative power of sacred choral music.

October 30<sup>th</sup>’s program will celebrate the power of reconciliation among communities of faith. Bridging those communities in song, this soaring choral music will express the hope for peace among people everywhere.

Rev. Dr. Marcus Kunz, Bass  
Contributor