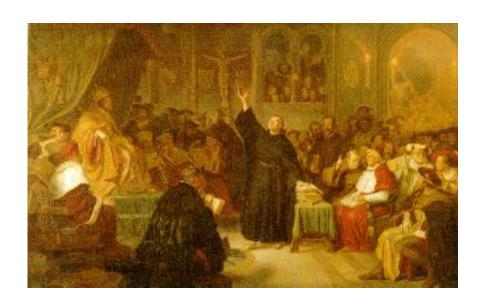
The Cosmos Theatre presents a Staged Reading of

# LUTHER

Written and Directed by
Anthony E. Gallo



# Saturday November 18, 2017 Noon COSMOS CLUB

# **CAST**

Martin Luther Stan Cloud Cardinal Cajetan \* Paul Eckert Henry the Eighth **Ned Conquest** Pastor Elizabeth, Eva Lenore Saltzman **Thomas More Eric Beshers** Thomas Muntzer Ed Molnar

Pope Leo X George Spencer

Josel+, Cardinal Petrucci# **Rod Ross** Philip Melanchton \*\* Miles Benson Elector++, Devon, Peter~ Brian Doyle Katherina Von Bora Star Kopper Madeline Gloria Rall

Ursula **Bunty Ketcham** Voice **Beatrix Whitehall** Beatrix Whitehall Narrator and Sound

Stage Manager Brian Doyle

# ACT 1

SCENE 1	Wittenberg University Confessional
SCENE 2	October 31, 1517 door of Castle Church Wittenberg
SCENE 3	Augsburg 12 1518 October
SCENE 4	The Vatican a month later
SCENE 5	Pulpit 1523
SCENE 6	Luther's office
SCENE 7	Good Friday 1523
SCENE 8	Luther's office

SCENE 9 Katherina's home 1525

SCENE 10 Luther's study

#### TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Dessert, fruit, coffee and tea served

### ACT 2

SCENE 1	A German	beer garden
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SCENE 2 Luther's office

SCENE 3 The Jewish market Wittenberg

SCENE 4 The Pulpit

SCENE 5 Elector's Palace SCENE 6 Luther's bedroom

SCENE 7 Luther's bedroom

SCENE 8 Eternity

EPILOGUE Lutheran Sunday School September 2001

## PLEASE REMAIN AFTER THE SHOW FOR THE DISCUSSION

The playwright would sincerely appreciate your suggestions and comments. You may contact him at (202) 544-6973 or agallo2368@verizon.net

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Nailing of the 95 Theses on the Church Door at Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, the playwright decided to examine the life of one of the most influential theologians in history. This two-act drama examines the life of Germany's leading theologian of all time. One out of every ten Protestants today is a Lutheran, as is one of out of every 20 Christians.

This play asks if Martin Luther had more in common with Osama Bin Laden than with Jesus of Nazareth. How does the extraordinary accomplishments of this reformer and theologian stand up to the greatest of Jesus commandments: Love your neighbor with your whole heart and soul? Luther valiantly confronted corruption in one the most powerful organizations on earth; the Roman Catholic Church.

Leo the Tenth, a Medici no less, had to raise funds to pay off his lavish ordination as pope. The ceremony was the most lavish of all time. More importantly, Leo desperately needed funds for the expansion and renovation of St. Peter's Basilica. The selling of indulgences to remove purgatory time was a profitable method of funding. Purgatory appears

nowhere in Scripture so the institution that created the concept was now selling indulgences to avoid suffering.

His 95 Theses against the Church worked. Here I stand echoes throughout the world. His theological treatises have now become major areas of study, and he has already inspired millions of people throughout the world for both his bravery and brilliance. He will become the most famous and influential German theologian and pastor in history.

The drama is heavily sprinkled with selections from Luther's sixty musical compositions. Felix Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony serves as the drama's basic theme music.

- \* Cardinal Cajetan was Pope Leo X's strong ally.
- # Cardinal Petrucci at first a Leo supporter, then turned on him
- + Josel was leader of the German-Jewish community
- \*\* Philip Melanchton, a clergyman, a brilliant friend of Luther
- ## Thomas Muntzer was a key ally of Luther, then turned on him because of the Peasant's Rebellion.
- ++ Prince Elector was one of the temporal rulers of Germany
- ~ Peter is a peasant (ghost)