

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
Narrator and Sound	Beatrix Whitehall
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
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 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 Melancton, 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)