**“Martin Luther, Where Are You?”**

**A Skit for Reformation**

*The Cast:*

Narrator

Luther’s Father (Scenes 1,2,5,10)

Luther’s Mother (Scenes 1,2,5,10)

Luther’s Brother (Scene 3)

Luther’s Sister (Scene 3)

Student A at Erfurt University (Scene 4)

Student B at Erfurt University (Scene 4)

Student C at Wittenbury University (Scenes 6,7,8,9)

Student D at Wittenburg University (Scenes 6,7,8,9)

*Ulrich Zwingli 1484-1531* (Scene 11)

*Philip Melanchthon 1497-1560*

*John Calvin 1509-1564*

*Thomas Cranmer 1489-1556*

*John Huss 1373-1415*

*John Wycliff 1330-1384*

*William Tyndale 1494-1536*

*Desiderius Erasmus 1466-1536*

*Francis Xavier 1506-1552*

*John Knox 1514-1572*

Pastor (Scene 12)

Student (Scene 12)

***Scene 1. At the Luther Home, Martin’s Father and Mother***

Martin, where are you?

He’s not home.

Where is he?

He’s with his friends.

Again? He should be home doing his homework, studying his Latin. What are they doing?

They are going around the town singing for people.

No son of mine should be begging. We have a good home.

He’s not begging. He and his friends enjoy singing and making up songs to sing.

Humph.

You know you gave him a Lute for Christmas. He loves to play it and make music and sing.

Humph.

***Scene 2. Same as above, ten years later.***

There is a letter from Martin.

Where is he?

He is at University in Erfurt town. He is enjoying his studies, he will make a fine Lawyer someday and become rich and take care of you and me, his mother and father in our old age.

It will be nice to see him when he comes home for vacation.

***Scene 3. At the Luther home. One year later. Martin’s brother and sister.***

Hey, look, a letter from Martin!

Where is he?

Oh, no! Father is going to be soooooo angry!

Why? Where is he?

He is no longer at the University, he has joined a monastery!

What?? Joined a Monastery??? Is he going to become a monk? Father will be sooooo angry!!

Yes, the Augustinian Monastery. He quit the university. Sold his books. He’s going to be a monk.

Father had big dreams of Martin becoming rich and famous. Now what will happen?

***Scene 4. At the University of Erfert. A couple of students, classmates of Luther.***

What are you carrying?

I just bought a few books from Martin Luther?

Why? Doesn’t he need them?

No, because he quit the University and jointed the Monastery.

Why did he do a stupid thing like that?

Well, on the way back to school there was a terrible storm. Lightening was striking near him and he was frightened out of his wits!

I can imagine that!

Well, he prayed to St. Anne to help him, promising to become a monk if she helped him. She did, so he did.

And now he is a monk! Well, we will miss him.

***Scene 5. At the Luther home. Ten years later. Martin’s parents.***

There is a new letter from Martin.

Where is he now?

Oh, he has been traveling! He went to Rome. He says he did not enjoy the city very much. He prayed for us while he was there so that we could get out of Purgatory a few years earlier.

Humph.

But after coming back to Germany, he has a new job.

Oh, where is Martin now?

He has a job at the new University in Wittenberg. He is a Bible teacher.

Well, at least he is a bit closer to home.

***Scene 6. At the University of Wittenberg. A couple of Luther’s students.***

Where is Prof. Dr. Luther? I want to ask him about this homework assignment. He says to find both Law and Gospel in this passage in Romans.

Oh, the Professor went downtown to the Castle Church. He had a big piece of paper with about 95 things written on it. He said he wanted to debate some stuff. So he is going to nail the paper to the door of the church so that people will see it when they come to church tomorrow. Tomorrow is November 1st, All Saints’ Day, so today, October 31, 1517, he wants to post his 95 Theses. Tomorrow there will be a lot of people coming to the church, and he hopes they will see and read them.

What did he write about?

Things that he talks about in class. Things like indulgences and paying money to the Pope so that people do not have to suffer in Purgatory. Stuff like that.

 ***Scene 7. Same as above, the next evening.***

Where is Prof. Luther? He sure has got himself into hot water this time!

Some people love what he wrote, others hate it.

Maybe it will enliven things here at this dull University!

I hope not too much.

***Scene 8. At Wittenberg University. A few years later. A couple of Luther’s students.***

Where is Martin Luther? Nobody can find him!

They say that he was kidnapped by bandits on the way home from the diet in Worms.

I wonder if those bandits were soldiers of the Pope. The Pope sure hates Luther and wants to kill him. Maybe Luther is dead!

I hope not!

The Pope wanted him to recant, to take back all the things he had said and written. But he wouldn’t.

Yes, his words have become famous. He said, “Here I stand. I can do no other.”

I hope he is safe!

So do I.

***Scene 9. At Wittenberg University. A few months later.***

Where is Martin Luther? Nobody can find him

I heard a rumor, but it is only a rumor.

What?

That he was not kidnapped, but taken to a safe hideout somewhere deep in the mountains. He is in disguise, living in a castle somewhere.

Wow! I hope he is safe. But what would he be doing there all this time. It would be very boring.

Oh, he is a scholar, so he is probably studying the Bible. He has a lot of time, so it would be nice if he could translate the Bible into German so that everyone could read and understand it better.

Yes, that sounds like a good idea! I have a hard time understanding all the Latin in church. I have a hard time understanding all those church rules and regulations.

Yes, some seem so stupid. Like Purgatory and indulgences and fasting and praying to the saints and praying for the dead and all that other stuff.

Dr. Luther has started a Reformation. I wish he was here to lead us.

Yes. Where is Luther? Please come home soon!

***Scene 10. At the Luther’s Home. Martin’s Father and Mother. A few years later.***

There is a new letter from Martin.

Where is he now?

He is still in Wittenberg. He wants us to come to a wedding.

Is a friend of his getting married?

No, HE is getting married! He finally found a woman that would marry him! Her name is Katerina or Katie for short. She is a runaway nun, so I guess they have a lot in common.

Katie. I like that name. So maybe we will finally have some grandchildren!

***Scene 11. At a meeting somewhere in Europe in the 16tht Century. A meeting of various Church reformers of the 14th and JH***

*UZ Ulrich Zwingli 1484-153*

*PM Philip Melanchthon 1497-1560*

*JC John Calvin 1509-1564*

*TC Thomas Cranmer 1489-1556*

*JH John Huss 1373-1415*

*JW John Wycliff 1330-1384*

*WT William Tyndale 1494-1536*

*DE Desiderius Erasmus 1466-1536*

*FX Francis Xavier 1506-1552*

*JK John Knox 1514-1572*

*Absent: Martin Luther 1483-1546*

*Thomas More 1478-1536*

*Christopher Columbus 1451-1506*

*Ferdinand Magellan 1480-1521*

*King Henry VIII 1491-1547*

UZ Where is Martin Luther?

PM He told me, *Philip Melanchthon,* that he was too busy with the Reformation in Germany to attend.

UZ That’s too bad. I, *Ulrich Zwingli,* wanted to know where he is on various issues.

JC Yes. For example, I, *John Calvin,* think that in the Holy Communion, the bread and grape juice only represent the Body and Blood of our Lord.

PM Martin believes Jesus when he said, “This is my Body.” That it is really present, in, with, and under the bread in a very special manner.

TC We in the Church of England believe the same way. One thing that I, *Thomas Cranmer,* appreciate about Luther is how he reformed the Mass, the worship service in German. I wrote the Book of Common Prayer used in all the churches of England.

JH I like the way he gives both the bread and the cup to all the people. When I, *John Huss,* tried to do that, 100 years ago, I got burnt at the stake. I am glad that Luther has been protected from that.

JW I, *John Wycliff*, like how he translated the Bible into German. I translated the Bible into English 200 years ago. It is really wonderful to be able to read and hear the Bible in your own native language.

WT And I, *William Tyndale*, too have recently updated your English translation into modern English. And it is the first English Bible to be printed using the invention of moveable type by Johannes Guttenberg nearly 100 years ago in 1439.

DE And when Luther translated the New Testament into German, he used the Greek New Testament that I, *Desiderius Erasmus*, edited. Luther and I could never agree on the Freedom of the Will. I think it is free, Luther thinks it is in bondage. But he is a good scholar anyway.

UZ And how about Baptism? I, *Ulrich Zwingli,* think that Baptism is a sign of an adult’s decision to follow Christ.

PM And Martin believes that Baptism is the work and promise of the Holy Spirit to create faith in the heart and to make even little babies children of God.

FX And while Luther sits around drinking beer in Germany, I, *Francis Xavier*, have been traveling the world, even to India and China and Japan to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the heathen of the world.

JK There are many drunken heathen right there in Germany who also need to hear the Gospel. That is why in Scotland and England, I, *John Knox*, have been trying hard to preach that people should live lives that are pure and pleasing to God.

JC Is there anything we all can agree on?

PM Yes. It is John 3:16. Let’s say it all together!

ALL “16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

***Scene 12. At a Lutheran Church somewhere in the 21st Century. Confirmation class. Student and Pastor.***

Where is Martin Luther?

He is buried in the Castle Church in Wittenberg, German.

When did he die?

About 450 years ago. But now we are celebrating the 500th Anniversary Year of the Lutheran Protestant Reformation of the Church that started on October 31, 1517.

That is old.

But we can find Martin today, you know.

Oh, where is Martin?

We can find him in his writings, especially in his little Christian Handbook.

What book is that?

It is called the Small Catechism.

Did Luther have a little cat?

Huh?

Did Luther have a small cat?

Well, I do not know if he had a pet cat or not. But he loved his children and he wanted them to know about Jesus, so he wrote a small book about God. It is like a handbook for the church.

What does it talk about?

How to live with God, following the Ten Commandments, Praying the Lord’s Prayer, worshiping and having Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

We can find Luther there?

We can find Jesus there. And we can find all Christians there who know Jesus as their Savior.

I am hungry. When do we have a break?

How about now? Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***The End****.*

*Written by Michael Nearhood, Pastor*

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