

# Martin & Katie Luther: Reader's Theatre

## Length:

There are two options available:

1. Martin and Katie as a performance (approximately 45 min)
2. Martin and Katie as a Dinner Theatre (approximately 2 hrs) and needs a point person to organize the dinner

## CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Martin Luther (read page 15-16 for notes on his costume)

Katie Luther

Paul (Martin and Katie's son)

Chorus—costumed as NUNS:

Nun #1

Nun #2

Nun #3

Nun #4

Nun #5

Nun #6

Nun #7

Nun #8

Gretchen

Voice

Dinner Theatre Servers—part of the cast, servers in the kitchen/dining room at Wittenberg University.

Students at the University: audience (encourage everyone to come dressed in 16th

century costuming)

The Chorus (nuns) move around the auditorium at the Director's discretion. They narrate, through music, using Martin Luther's tune "A Mighty Fortress." Music provided at end of script. A copy of this needs to be on the dinner tables as the audience (Wittenberg students) will sing it together at the end of the play.

## Setting:

### Stage and Prop Suggestions

*Time in History*

*1483–1552AD*

Read the notes on Reader's Theatre that are provided with this script.

(See accompaniments)

Before you design your set, please read the notes on Reader's Theatre, provided with these scripts.

Katie's stage business may include: needlework; peeling and eating an apple; folding linens that are in wicker basket; chopping something fragrant (like cilantro), sorting wool, etc. At one point Katie puts together an herbal poultice —have a basket of herbs at the ready.

Martin's stage business could include: quill and paper for writing, books and more books that he looks in, then writes, tankard of beer, eating bread, etc. Katie hides money in a pot of some kind on Martin's desk. Martin puts money in a cloth bag.

Both scripts, "Martin and Katie Luther" and "Katie Luther" are written to interact with a family Dinner Theatre audience.

Ideas for the DINNER:

Use long tables, set to eat family-style, and decorate depicting 16th century Germany. Dinner has been written into the script — Katie and Martin stay in character while Katie directs the action, ad-lib. Take as long as you need.

Appetizers:

Loaves of grainy bread, set on wooden board, with apples and cheese.

Drinks:

Apple juice for children; Katie's beer for the adults.

The main course could be:

Guinness Stew (see recipe in accompaniments)

Both Martin and Katie have desk/table set side by side and strewn with their work things as well as the props needed. The audience is the new students that have come to the Wittenberg University. Martin and Katie are welcoming them, giving them instructions, and providing a family history.

Dinner Theatre:

A dinner invitation could look like this:

## Katie

Respectfully requests your presence for dinner and  
"STUDENT WELCOME"  
at the Wittenberg University  
on Saturday, November 7th, at 6pm.

Costuming from the year of our Lord, 1500 is suggested.

The menu will include Guinness Stew, cheese, and freshly baked bread.

The doors to the University will be open to all protestors, pupils, and Protestants

The topic of discussion:

REFORMATION

Presented as an interactive Reader's Theatre  
written by Norma Bennett

## Martin & Katie Luther: Script

MARTIN: *(standing beside his desk)*

So! You have come to the University of Wittenberg! I am Martin Luther, one of your professors. It is good you made it. All the wars, the peasants revolt, one Saxon prince against another. . . Everything is changing.

Don't misunderstand! The change is good—it's just hard. Many people have died; our culture has lost its stability. Things had been the same here for hundreds of years—nay, a thousand years! That's a long time! And in all that time the church has become progressively more evil.

Ah—the things that happen in the name of the Church! It would make your heart sick. Oh, people have protested now and then but the Roman Church held the world in their strong, often evil, hand. They are even selling salvation—sin all you want just as long as you pay the Pope afterward. It eases the consciences of the rich and puts the poor in chains.

Then, God in His great providence looked down and said, “ENOUGH!” And He showed me the scripture, “The just shall live by FAITH.” By FAITH ALONE! Hoping to initiate discussion with the church leaders, I wrote down 95 statements that God showed me from His Word, and I nailed them to the

church door in Wittenberg.

Well, everything started to crumble—the Church, our culture, and our communities...

If not for good friends, the Pope would have killed me. He said I was, "...a wild boar in the vineyard." I care not what the Pope says, he has no power outside God's will. GOD has His purposes, and they will not fail! The light of His salvation has shined through these dark days and REFORM has come. What glorious days to live in!

But come. . . we will have many talks. . .my wife will know what to do with you. . .

*(calls)*

KATIE!

KATIE: *(enters, carrying basket of diapers)*

New students, yes?

Ave Maria! Where am I to put you!

MARTIN: Kate! Why do you ask her help when you can ask Jesus?

KATIE: Ave Maria! What to do? Ah, well, this is nothing new. We are always getting new students at our University. Please forgive the mess! Martin, my dear, please do something with this...everlasting paper litter.

MARTIN: My dear Kate, I have forgotten to tell you—my sister's four sons and two daughters will be arriving tomorrow. . .