

## Martin Luther and the Diet of Worms, 2013

On October 31, 1517, Luther, a Catholic monk, nailed the famous 95 theses to the door of the Catholic Church, which outlined all of the heresies the Church was practicing and propagating in their superstitions and teachings to the people. This act of defiance, coupled with the message of “salvation by Grace alone”, had the Emperor himself seeking Luther’s execution. But the gospel prevailed, not only sparing Luther’s life through various acts of Providence, but with the help of Luther’s contemporaries and successors, reaching to the far corners of the earth in its unaltered and uncompromised form. Today, Martin Luther is regarded as the “Father of the Reformation”, responsible for shaping Christianity as we know it today in Western Civilization.

The Company performed this 25-minute one-act drama with eight main actors and various extras in a small walk-through theater demonstration. A small local consignment shop worked with us to section off different areas of the store so that the audience could walk from “room” to “room” for the next part of the show, until they were able to exit the back of the store in front of a neighboring business for coffee and fellowship afterwards. The production showed the weekend of Halloween on half-hour loops for two nights; though we were deviating from the original purpose of The Company, we hoped to draw audience members from the nearby “zombie walk” theater production a few blocks away to educate them concerning a better reason to celebrate the holiday. It proved to be a great success, and quite a few people were eager to learn more about this man they had no idea was responsible for their religious freedom.

A pastor from a neighboring town had attended with some members of his congregation one of those evenings, and he enjoyed it so much that he asked if we would perform it once again at his church. We agreed. The church was packed that January evening – standing room only. We were grateful to have been able to reach so many more people through that final showing.

## “Here I Stand”: the life of Martin Luther, 2015 (reprise)

Over the course of The Company’s move to a new state, the opportunity to produce one last VA production arose. We chose to do the story of Martin Luther once again – the same show, but with a completely new cast and crew. This time, we performed at The New Geneva Christian Leadership Academy at their open house in November 2015. We performed in their sanctuary on hour loops for two evenings. (We learned from two years ago that half-hour loops were a little exhausting!) Once again, the turnout was amazing, and though most of the audience was familiar with Martin Luther this time, not many were familiar with New Geneva, and it gave a fine opportunity for them to enjoy wholesome entertainment while learning about this new local research and education center, which is part of what The Company is all about.

The Company “Luther” productions can both be found in their entirety on Youtube under the search “Martin Luther the Company of Strangers Theater”.