

Here We Walk: A Lenten Journey with Martin Luther

Eisleben



Martin Luther was born in Eisleben in 1483. He also died there in 1546 at the age of 63.

Erfurt



He attended the University of Erfurt 1501-1505 in preparation to study law. The plan changed when he was caught walking in a thunderstorm and bargained with God to become a monk if he lived through it. Luther lived at the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt from 1505 to 1511. He studied theology at the University of Erfurt in 1507, after being ordained as a priest.

Eisenach



Luther's supporter Prince Frederick had him taken to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach in 1522 to hide from his opponents as "Knight George". It is here that Luther translated the New Testament.

Worms



In 1521 Luther is excommunicated and summoned to appear before the Diet in Worms, where Emperor Charles V demanded that he recant his teachings. When Luther refused, Charles V issued an edict banning Luther and his teachings.

Heidelberg



Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university town. Luther presented his beliefs to the Augustinian Order in 1518. He received mixed reviews with many older professors criticizing his ideas and many students embracing them and helping him spread these new beliefs in southern Germany.

Grimma

In 1525 Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun who fled from a convent near Grimma, and had taken refuge in Wittenberg in 1525. Katharina and Luther had six children. Katharina ran the household; managing the finances, brewing the beer, and gardening.

Wittenburg



After receiving his doctorate in Theology in 1512, Luther became a Theology Professor at Wittenberg University and priest at the City Church in Wittenberg. It was at this time while studying the Bible, he had a spiritual enlightenment and understood we are saved by grace and not by works. He was disturbed by his parishioners choice to buy indulgences (their salvation) instead of coming to confession. Luther preached against the indulgence trade and wrote a letter to his superiors with 95 theses to start a discussion. Tradition has it that he nailed his letter to the Castle Church doors on October 31, 1517.

Need motivation?

In 1510, Luther represented the Augustinian Order at a meeting in Rome. To get there he walked around 1,000 miles through the Swiss Alps into Italy. He averaged 26 miles a day and spent his nights at monasteries along the way. It was the season of advent, so he endured snow and less meat.



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