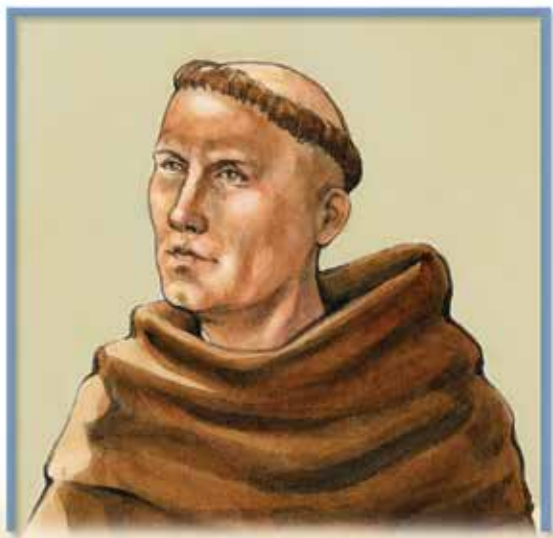


# *Martin Luther*

## **Hero of Faith**



By Edward C. Grube

Illustrated by Deborah J. White



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*Martin Luther*



# ◆ ◆ ◆ foreword

The life and work of Martin Luther is well documented and well speculated. Separation of fact from popular legend is the work of Luther scholars, and we gratefully acknowledge their efforts.

This biography borrows from the concept that created Table Talk, a collection of casual but significant conversations that occurred around Luther's dinner table. In creating *Lunch with Luther*, the author begs indulgence (forgive me!) as he places Dr. Luther as a guest at a Lutheran school lunch table. Fiction creeps into the scenarios, but only as a device to contextualize Luther's wisdom. These pages portray Luther as a person who would interact with people today, just as he did in his Table Talk experiences. The biography is not chronological, but instead reflects a random scattering of questions and conversation that might guide the conversation among Luther and several students.

You will read the words of a narrator—an imaginary student who guides the discourse—

along with questions and comments of other imaginary children. Special thanks go to Renee Grube and her students at Concord Lutheran School in Bensenville, Illinois, who helped me to think like a student in Luther's company.

A foreword for students appears in the opening paragraphs of the biography.

Edward C. Grube





95 THESES

THESE 95 THESES  
ONTAINE VITTEL  
1905



day one

# The World of Martin Luther

Older students like you aren't often asked to use your imagination. But if you can dream a little, it may help you understand the world-class genius Martin Luther. Many books tell about Luther's work, and authors have written fine biographies of his life. You may even want to read one or more of them after you meet Dr. Luther.

Yes, imagine you are meeting Martin Luther in person. He decided to visit your school. Would you invite him to eat lunch with you? You might be relieved that he isn't visiting religion class or sitting next to you in chapel. You might expect him to want to hear you confess a flawless Apostles' Creed or to sing one of his famous hymns from memory! But, he just wants to talk. He wants you to ask questions. He wants to share his knowledge, his stories, his humor, and most of all, his faith. Some of his best teaching happened around a crowded dinner table.

By the way, sometimes you'll hear Luther mix in a German word or two as he speaks. Oh, and what should you call him? It is proper to address him as Dr. Luther, because his university studies earned him the right to be called *doctor*, as you might call a teacher at a college today. You can call him *reverend* or *pastor* too. Not only did he teach about the Bible, but he also was pastor of a church.

Well, let's get back to you and Luther and lunch. Imagine that Luther takes you aside and quietly asks about the lunch menu. "You don't suppose, *mein Freund*, that your cooks have prepared some sausages and crusty rye bread, do you?"

You might be happy that he called you his friend, and you certainly don't want to disappoint such an important and friendly guest. What can you offer that might even come close to his beloved sausages and rye bread? Maybe he could learn to like hot dogs on a bun.

As you lead Luther to your table, you ask, "What food did you enjoy when you were young?"

*Maybe Luther could learn to like hot dogs on a bun.*



“My family began with very little. My parents were careful and tried to save. We moved when I was about one year old so my father could buy a copper mine and earn a better living. It’s hard to remember way back then, but families like ours often ate cheap pork along with dark bread and turnips.



Sometimes we ate porridge, a thick soup made of oats boiled in water. Not exactly hot dogs on a bun, *ja*? But you know what I really remember about our family meals? I remember my brother Jacob sitting next to me. Ah, dear Jacob loved me, and I loved him. Don’t you think that meals with people you love are always good meals?

“Oh, but you asked about food. As my father began to make more money, our food improved. Germany had fine fields for growing grains to make bread, and there were pastures for raising cattle. Only the nobles in their castles had what