

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Martin Luther

## 1. The Wittenburg Door

Nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenburg Door was not an act of defiance, but the normal way to start theological discussions. Printing press copies created by a fan made Luther's proposals "go viral" and become controversial.

## 2. Alcohol cures all evils

Luther sometimes advocated drinking. One young man wrote in despair at the prospect of going to hell. Luther advised him to get drunk, as he did when he felt despair.

## 3. A dubious fast-track

Luther was ordained priest with no theological studies (1507). A year later, he was given a bachelor's degree and was teaching in Wittenburg. Three years later, he was awarded his doctorate and appointed chair of theology.

## 4. Katie Luther escaped a nunnery in a fish barrel

Luther's wife was an ex-nun who had managed to escape from her convent by hiding in barrel that had once contained pickled fish.

## 5. The animal activist

While disguised as a knight in Wartburg castle, he refused to take part in rabbit hunting. One ran up his pant leg to escape, but the dogs bit through the fabric and killed it.

## 6. Surrounded by relics

Luther objected to the holy relics in Rome, but the Castle Church of Wittenberg contained over 1500 relics, including bones of saints and splinters of the "true cross."

## 7. Let's talk about sex

Luther was liberal about sex. He said a woman had the right to take on a lover if her husband wasn't able to satisfy her in bed, and the husband should accept this.

## 8. Brilliant linguist and colossal memory

Luther translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into German, which served to unify the German language. He also memorized the entire New Testament.

## 9. Musical expert

Luther was keen on music. An accomplished lute player, he composed countless hymns and he is regarded as one of the most important German composers prior to Bach.

## 10. A mean streak

As Luther gained power with the magisterium, his mean streak showed in foul insults against opponents, open and tragic anti-semitism and cruel calls for violence against the peasants of the Munsterie rebellion.



"Martin Luther: Here I Stand..." was an art installation of 800 figures of Martin Luther. German artist Ottmar Hoerl erected it in Wittenberg's market square from August 14 to September 12, 2010.

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