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First Lutheran Plans Production Of Drama

A drama depicting Martin Luther before the emperor Charles V, the issuance of the proclamation of Charles V denouncing Luther, and a scene in Luther's household will be staged at 5 p.m. tomorrow at First Lutheran Church on Broadway.

Written by Rev. Harry Smith, First Lutheran Pastor, and Reece K. Acuff, chairman of the Men's Club's committee on Luther Drama, the play will last for an hour and will utilize 25 persons in various roles.

The dramatization is not limited to members of First Lutheran but is staged for the benefit of all Knoxvillians.

The drama is based on the actual writings of Martin Luther and his lines are direct quotations. Elaborate sets and costuming are being designed by Alfred Markworth to recreate the church as the Great Hall at Worms where Luther was questioned before Emporer Charles V and where Luther made his famous "Here I Stand" speech.

A translation of the Emporer's proclamation denouncing Luther will be read by a page. The second scene is in the Luther household after his marriage to Katherine Von Bora. The scene is at the supper table where Luther is questioned by the student boarders at his house. Luther tells here of his life, and his studies of theology.

The drama will end on a note of Luther's proclaiming Christ and Christ alone as his hope of salvation and the hope of all mankind.

The drama will be narrated by Acuff and background music will be recordings of the Luther Hour Choir of St. Louis, Mo.

Martin Luther will be played by James Kolb of Grace Lutheran, the Emporer Charles V by Markworth, and John Elk by Fred Mundt. The play is in observance of the 448th anniversary of the day of Luther's nailing his 95 charges for debate on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany.