

Footstep #38 A Happy Anniversary! 1525

June 13 is the wedding anniversary of Luther's marriage to Katherine von Bora. Although Luther taught that the clergy should marry, he did not consider marriage for himself because he expected to die as a heretic. Luther collaborated with leaders in Torgau to assist twelve nuns in escaping from the cloister in Nimtzech on the day before Easter in 1523. All of the nuns, except Catherine, were married within two years, which was important for their livelihood. Luther picked Rev. Dr. Glatz as a mate for Catherine but God had other plans as she refused. Catherine asked to marry Martin Luther, she was 26 and he was 41. They were married in the company of a few friends and there was a banquet celebration attended by Luther's parents and friends.

Their marriage was blessed with six children: Hans (1526), Elizabeth (1527), Magdalene (1529), Martin (1531), Paul (1533), and Margaret (1534). Hans became a prominent lawyer in Weimar, Martin became a research theologian, and Paul became a distinguished physician. The only descendents of Luther are through his youngest daughter Margaret.

Roman Catholic Christians were horrified and opposed Luther's marriage because the Catholic faith taught that priests promised to dedicate their lives to God. Sir Thomas More condemned Luther's marriage. *"Whereas Luther not only teachest monks, friars, and nuns to marriage, but also being a friar, hath married a nun himself and with her liveth under the name of wedlock in open, incestuous lechery without care of shame."* (Richard Marius. *Thomas More*. P. 308)



A reenactment – June 13, 1525



Katherine Von Bora