

Fill in the blanks
in the following narrative
about the life and beliefs
of Martin Luther.

Martin Luther was born in _____ on November 10, _____. In 1501, Luther entered the University of Erfurt to study _____. While returning from a visit with family, Martin was struck down by _____. He cried out to a saint to save him and pledged he would become a _____. After he returned safely, he kept his promise and entered the Augustinian _____ at Erfurt.

From Erfurt, Luther was sent to be a professor at Wittenberg. He slowly became aware of the worldly and sinful behavior of many church officials. He began to oppose the buying and selling of _____, which the church taught could free people from the punishment of their sins. Luther believed this teaching was corrupt and not found in the _____. When Luther found out that a priest named _____ was selling _____ near Wittenberg, Martin wrote a letter that criticized this practice. Luther's list of concerns was called the _____. On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed this list to the _____ of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther had no intention at this time of breaking with the church; instead, he sought to encourage _____ within it.

Luther tried very hard to be good and holy. He faithfully _____, _____, and read the Bible in order to make himself acceptable to God. However, it seemed to Luther that the harder he tried to obey God perfectly, the more he was aware of his _____. How could he be sure that his efforts to be righteous would be acceptable to God? While studying the Bible, particularly the book of _____, Luther realized that he did not have to earn God's forgiveness by working hard to be holy. Christ had earned it for him by _____ for his sins. Luther realized that salvation does not come through works but through _____ in Christ and His work.

The pope and some princes opposed Luther's understanding of salvation. At the _____ of _____ in 1521, Emperor Charles V and important church leaders demanded that Luther _____ what he had written. If he did not, he would be branded as a _____ and killed. With God-given courage and humility, Luther said he could not take back what he had written because his _____ was ruled by the Word of God. As a result, the _____ declared him an outlaw and put him under the Ban of the Empire. Luther's life was in danger.

Luther fled back to _____, but on the way there he was _____ by men who served _____. These men took him to a fortress called Wartburg; they intended to _____ Luther. Luther remained at Wartburg for a year. While there, he

translated the _____ into _____ so that the common people could read it.

Luther remained under the Ban of the Empire for the rest of his life, but he continued to preach the _____, teach, and write. In 1525, he married _____, a former nun, and they had six children. Luther's friend and fellow reformer, Philipp _____, presented a formal statement of what the Reformers believed, called the _____, to Emperor Charles V in 1530. Sadly, in the later years of his life, Luther issued many unkind attacks against those he thought were the _____ of Christ. In 1546, he _____ peacefully among his loved ones and friends in _____, where he had been born.