

Martin Luther (der 10. November 1483—der 2. Februar 1546)

## MARTIN LUTHERS HOCHZEITFEST (der 13. Juni 1525)

WITTENBERGERS LOVE LIFE AND THEIR ANNUAL LUTHER'S WEDDING HOCHZEIT IS ONE OF THEIR PASSIONS.



Join the crowd!  
Celebrate the nuptials of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora.

The cry of “*Jube!*” (cheers) echoes through the pastel-colored 16th century buildings and narrow cobblestone streets of Lutherstadt-Wittenberg on the Elbe River, as group after group of distinctive parade participants passes the reviewing stand at Luther’s annual wedding celebration.

The loud, jubilant cry from excited parade participants prompts the word to be shouted back from by-standers; everyone smiles and laughs, and the picturesque parade continues.

It’s the highlight of the year for Wittenbergers, and thousands more around Germany, who take part in and delight in the flair, color and elaborate pageantry of this popular event.

Going strong now for 20 years, Luther’s Hochzeit Festival attracts as many as 100,000 people every second weekend in June, including 2,000 dressed in vibrant Medieval period costumes. It’s like walking back in time, as visitors come face to face with Luther and his new bride, Katharina von Bora, the Elector’s Court, the Castle Guards and Captains, the Court Council, Noble Women, various military troupes, fools, gossip women and farmhands—all in one lively weekend.

The two prominent wedding celebrities—Luther and Katharina— were played in 2014 by local residents Katja Wartmann, 41, and Arne Lietz, 37. As many as 30 historical societies help form the bulk of the parade, and in 2013 the festival received an award from the Lively City Foundation in the category Best City Festival. Entries were received on behalf of 631 town and city festivals in Germany, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

Martin Luther, the theologian who forever changed Christianity when he began the Protestant Reformation in 16th century Europe, was born in 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony. Luther studied at Erfurt, where he was ordained and taught before being appointed to the chair of theology in the newly founded University at Wittenberg.

Wittenberg claims Luther as a son, with the year 2017 the conclusion of the Luther Decade, which focuses on the 500 years since Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses against the misuse of indulgences on October 31, 1517. Luther famously nailed the theses to the door of Wittenberg’s Castle Church, the event which is considered the beginning of the Reformation.

And in preparation for the 500th anniversary of the