

BERÜHMTE DEUTSCHEN / FAMOUS GERMANS

MARTIN LUTHER

(10. November 1483 bis zum 2. Februar 1546)

AN UPDATE ON HISTORY

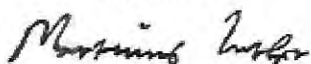
Did You Know That . . .

<b>Born</b>	10 November 1483 Eisleben, Saxony, Holy Roman Empire
<b>Died</b>	18 February 1546 (aged 62) Eisleben, Saxony, Holy Roman Empire
<b>Education</b>	University of Erfurt
<b>Occupation</b>	Friar · Priest · Theologian · Professor
<b>Notable work</b>	<i>Ninety-five Theses</i>  Luther's Large Catechism  Luther's Small Catechism  <i>On the Freedom of a Christian</i>  <i>On the Bondage of the Will</i>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Katharina von Bora
<b>Children</b>	Hans (Johannes) · Elisabeth · Magdalena · Martin · Paul · Margarethe

**Theological work**

<b>Era</b>	Reformation
<b>Tradition or movement</b>	Lutheranism

**Signature**



. . . in Luther's day Germany was divided into a vast number of independent principalities.  
 . . . Luther's reform would have remained a purely religious matter, an affair between him and the church, had it not coincided with the interests of some princes who became aware of the added political power to be gained through Luther's reform.  
 . . . Luther's own sovereign, Frederick III, the Wise of Saxony, regarded the papal ban against one of his subjects as interference in Saxony's affairs.  
 . . . the rapid spreading of Luther's teachings in Germany made the "Luther case" an affair of the Reich.  
 . . . Frederick III enabled Luther to defend himself before the highest secular legal authority, the Kaiser.  
 . . . the Kaiser, Charles V, was indebted to Frederick of Saxony who had backed his election as Kaiser.  
 . . . Frederick III put Luther into protective custody in the Wartburg and a short time later Luther was declared a heretic by the *Edict of Worms*.  
 . . . the first *Diet of Speyer* in 1526 was moderate toward Luther and his cause. Charles V needed peace in Germany in view of the Turks who threatened the Reich's south-eastern flank.  
 . . . in 1529, at the second *Diet of Speyer*, Charles V wanted to settle the religious issue to suit his own needs. But the territorial Protestant churches protested against the reversal of earlier concessions. That earned them the name "Protestants."  
 . . . the *Augsburg Religious Peace Settlement* of 1555 finally gave the followers of both religions full equality and granted jurisdiction over the churches to the ruling sovereigns, thus marking the beginning of national and regional churches.  
 . . . most European Catholic theologians no longer regard Luther's teachings as an element that divides the churches thanks to the writings of the Catholic ecclesiastical historian Joseph Lortz (1887-1975).

