

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

Martin Luther came this way.

His theological views changed religion forever. Travel in the footsteps of the Father of the Reformation – Martin Luther.

Martin Luther did not know his call for papal reform would become the Reformation; that his protest would become Protestantism.

For him it all began on All Saints Eve, 1517, when he indignantly posted ninety-five points for religious argument on the wooden door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This was no more than the conventional way of signaling academic debate, but it blew Europe apart.

The door and its successors have burned; the points raised for discussion (now literally cast in bronze) remain in place. Since they were directed to other theologians, the language is Latin. Had they not been translated into German and distributed by some sixteenth century journalist, they might have gone unnoticed.

For more than forty years, most of the dozen cities and towns associated with Luther's life and work lay behind the Iron Curtain. Yet, despite official suppression of religion and even where Russian soldiers were garrisoned nearby, the sites were maintained. Celebration of "Martin's Day," his November 10 birthday, was, of course, prohibited, but held in secret.

The Thuringian village of Eisleben where he was born to Margarethe and Hans Luder in 1483 and where he died in 1546, is a place of pilgrimage today. His birth house at 16 Lange Gasse (now Lutherstrasse) was restored in 1694 as a memorial and opened as a museum in 1917. Famous portraits by Lucas Cranach hang on the wall. He is said to have used the swan-shaped lectern and was surely familiar with the pre-Reformation bibles. He was baptized in



Wittenberg Fremdenverkehrsamt

Luther Memorial on Market Square in Wittenberg.