



Reformation Day



I have something to confess: I didn't take this picture on Reformation Day. It was about a week earlier when I made a trip to Wittenberg. I traveled to Wittenberg last year but didn't have the proper lens, so I didn't go inside the Castle Church, where Luther posted his 95 Theses. This time, I was prepared and visited the interior; there are several statues of important Reformation-era figures, including Luther, of course. Reformation Day is a public holiday in multiple states in Germany, including Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, where Leipzig and Wittenberg are, respectively.

St. Martin's Day and Laternenfest

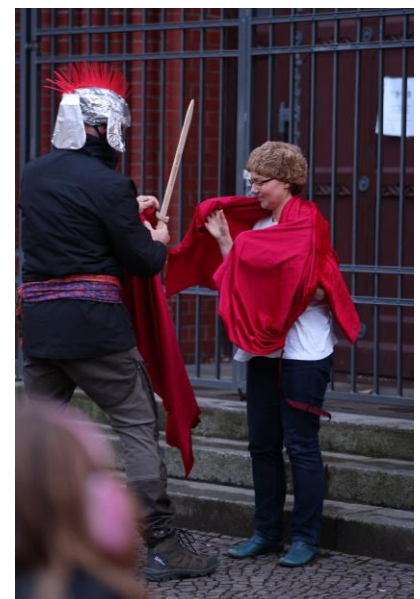


"St. Martin" leading the children on a path around Lukaskirche.

St. Martin's Day is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, and it is celebrated on November 11. He is remembered partially for a story where he cut his cloak in half to give part of it to a cold beggar. Associated with this day is Laternenfest or Laternelaufen, where children make lanterns and carry them around on a path. The origin of the lantern festival and its connection to the feast day is unknown, but it could just be due to the darker days of late fall and winter. The day is perhaps celebrated more in Catholic circles, but as the Augsburg Confession states, we can "imitate [the saints'] faith and good works, according to our calling."



Singing songs for St. Martin's Day.



"St. Martin" providing the "beggar" with half his cloak. It was pretty cold and windy that day, so she didn't have to do much acting!



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Youth visit from the large Persian congregation in Berlin

Recently, a large number of youth and young adults visited Lukaskirche for an afternoon. They were visiting from Trinity Lutheran Church in Berlin, where there are over 1400 Persian speakers. They received a message from Pastor Gevers, sang songs, met with some of the Persian members in Leipzig, and had cookies and coffee. The group was larger than the attendance in our church some Sundays, and it was nice to hear a big group singing hymns in Farsi!



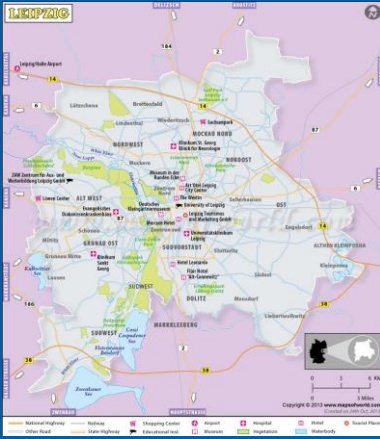
Pastor Gevers gives a message to the youth group. At left is the pastor of the church in Berlin, Gottfried Martens.

This section is where I'm going to add Farsi versions of Bible verses (and perhaps some sections of the liturgy), along with the phonetic pronunciation and the translation, so you can get a taste of what the Bible looks like to a Persian speaker.

Learn Farsi!

"پادشاه در پاسخ خواهد گفت: 'آمین، به شما می گویم، آنچه برای یکی از کوچکترین برادران من کردید، در واقع برای من کردید.'"

The above verse is Matthew 25:40, and it is pronounced in this way: Pâdeshâ dar pâsokh khâhad goft: Âmeen, beh shomâ meegooyam, âneh barâyeh yekee az koochektareeneh barâdarâneh man kardeed, dar vâgheh barâyeh man kardeed. It is translated in this way: The king will say in response, "Truly, I say to you, whatever you've done for the least of these my brothers, you've done for me."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-Safe travel back to Germany for Kim, who's finishing her home service

-The people of Iran and Ukraine, who are suffering due to unrest and war, along with people in Africa and Asia suffering from natural disasters

-All those harmed by the terrorist attacks against Israel

GIVE THANKS FOR:

-A newborn baby, who was recently baptized at Lukaskirche

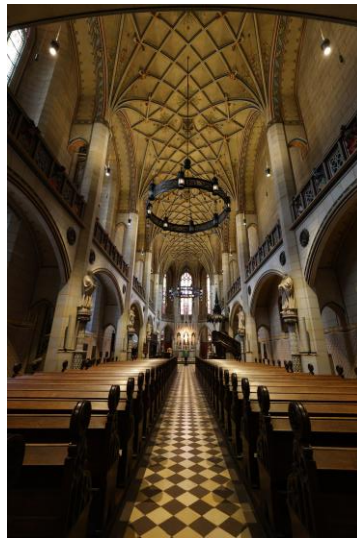
-Persians who are interested in pursuing an occupation in ministry

PRAISE GOD FOR:

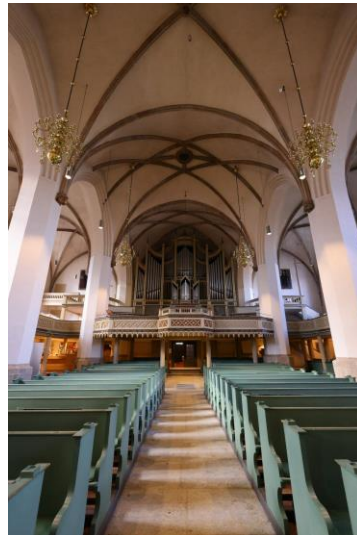
-His provision for our daily needs

More pictures from Wittenberg

This time, I made sure to bring my ultrawide lens to do a better job of capturing interiors.



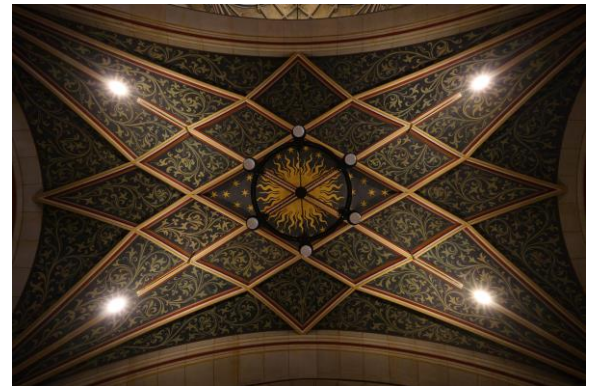
I was one of the first in line, so I got a picture of the Castle Church almost completely empty.



The nave of the city church, where Luther preached hundreds of times (its two towers can be seen in the picture on the right).



Martin Luther's gravestone. He's buried about eight feet underneath the floor.



A cool part of the ceiling, near the rear of the nave.



A view of the city, from the church tower.



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