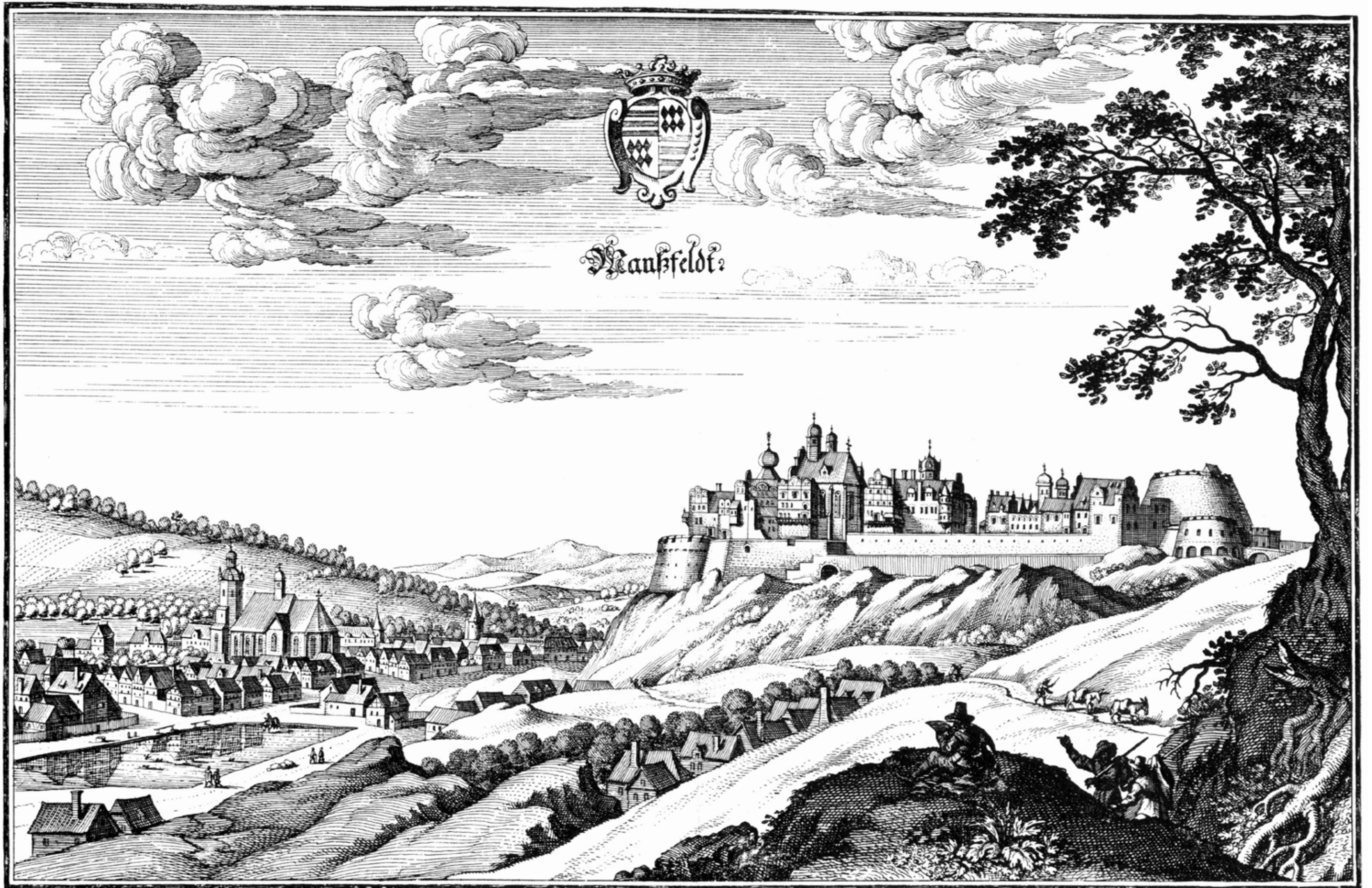


# Luther in Mansfeld



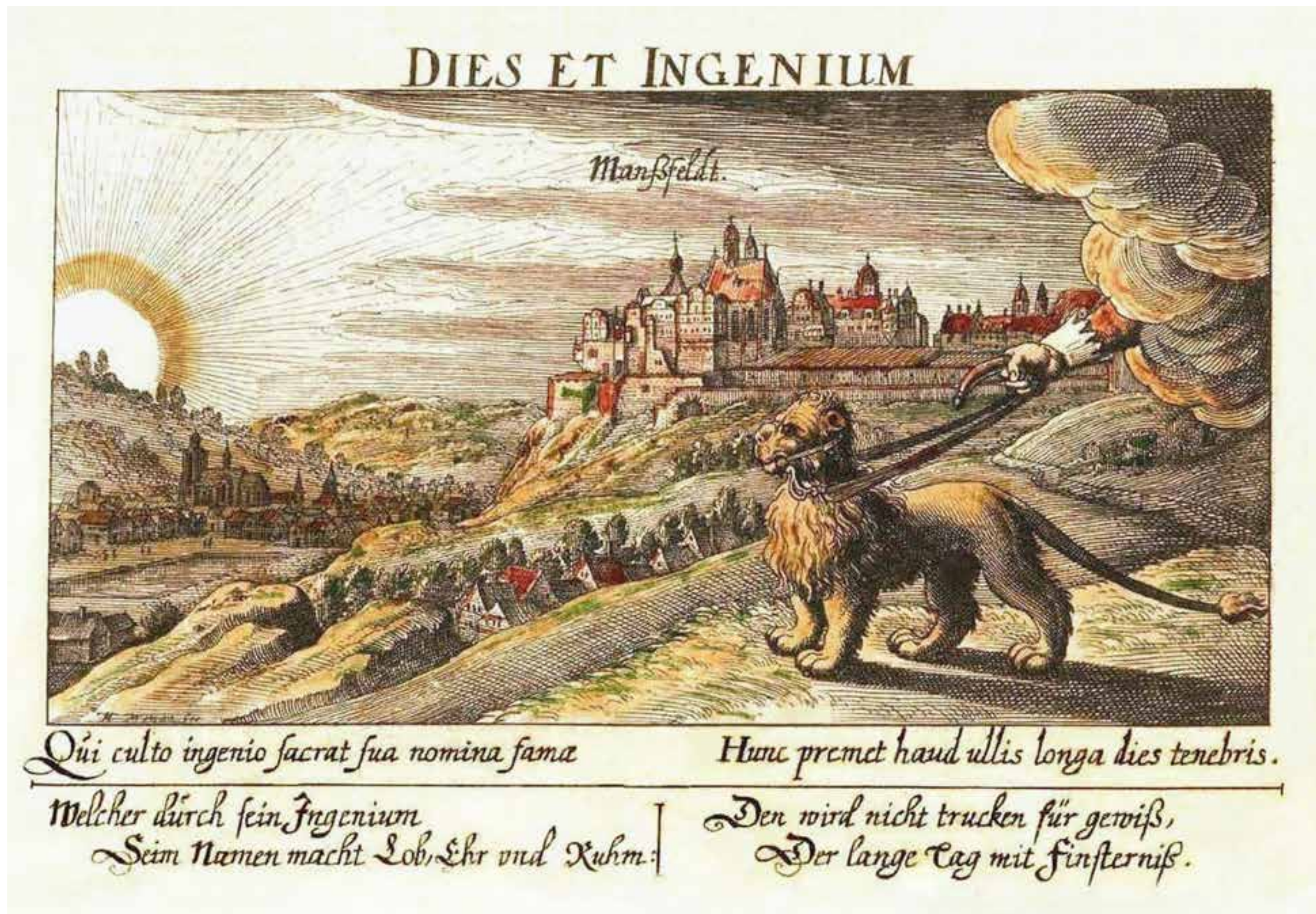
## Childhood and Education:

Mansfeld is a town in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, where the Protestant reformer Martin Luther grew up. In 1993 the town became one of sixteen in Germany to be designated a Lutherstadt.



# DIES ET INGENIUM

(Sunrise and Character)



1625 engraving of Mansfeld, with rising sun and a lion on a leash held by a hand that protrudes from a cloud; this is no doubt St. George, the patron saint of the city.

Latin phrase with German rhymed translation below picture:

**Latin:** Qui culto ingenio sacrat sua nomina fama  
Hunc premet haud ullis longa dies tenebris.

**German:** Welcher durch sein Ingenium Seim Namen macht Lob, Ehr und Ruhm:  
Den wird nicht trucken für gewiß, Der lange Tag mit Finsterniß.

**English:** Whoever through his character makes for his name praise, honor and fame:  
he will certainly not be oppressed the whole day long by darkness.



# The Luther Fountain, 1913



"GO OUT INTO THE WORLD"





# Luther's Parents



Martin Luther was born to Hans Luder (or Ludher, later Luther) and his wife Margarethe (née Lindemann) on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony, then part of the Holy Roman Empire. He was baptized as a Catholic the next morning on the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. His family moved to Mansfeld in 1484, where his father was a leaseholder of copper mines.



# The Home of Luther's Parents





# Martin Luther's Latin School



Until the age of 13, Martin Luther was a pupil at Mansfeld's Latin School. To this day, the city celebrates Luther's first day of school with a festive reenactment and small town celebration on the first Saturday after Easter. (Today, tourist information center.)



# Seal of St. George's Church, 1608



Seal of the church with Squire George and the dragon with papal crown.  
(Dragon as a symbol of the devil.)



# St. George's Church in Mansfeld



The Parish Church St. George was given its current form between 1497 and 1518. A special highlight is its “Lutherbild” painting, which dates back from before 1575 and portrays Martin Luther in full regalia. This is the only full portrait in existence, making it a must-see for any journey through Luther Country. A further highlight is the church’s “The Risen Christ” painting by Luther’s close friend, Lucas Cranach the Younger.



# Portrait of Luther in St. George's



In the spring of 1488 Martin Luther began attending the school in Mansfeld, located next to St. George's Church. There he learned reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, and the rudiments of Latin. The children had to be able to recite without mistake The Hail Mary, The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the Credo.



# Luther and St. George

*Martin Luther never identified with the saint and/or knight George, but he did give reason for this assumption several times. By 1521/22 at the latest it seemed likely because of his alias "Squire George." The Mansfeld theologian Cyriacus Spangenberg intensified the connection in 1563 in his second sermon on Luther, and in 1613 Pastor Martin Rinckart of Eisleben presented what amounted to an identification of Luther with Biblical salvation: "And thou Eisleben are not the least among the thousands (of towns) in Germany; for out of thee one shall come who will be a knight over my spiritual people of Israel and the final prophet." [cf. Matthew 2:6] Two centuries later the Großörner (Mansfeld) pastor Gotthilf Heinrich Schnee converted Bethlehem and Eisleben, as the birthplaces of Jesus Christ and Luther, into Nazareth and Mansfeld, saying that these were much more important as the towns where Jesus and Luther grew up. From about 1600 on, Mansfeld's church used a seal showing the knight George, who immediately was seen to be Luther. The "new knight," recognizable also on the church's pulpit support (1617/20), was still part of the local and confessional identification of Mansfeld at the beginning of the twentieth century, as is clear from the Luther Fountain of 1913 and the Youth League of Squire George founded in 1916.*



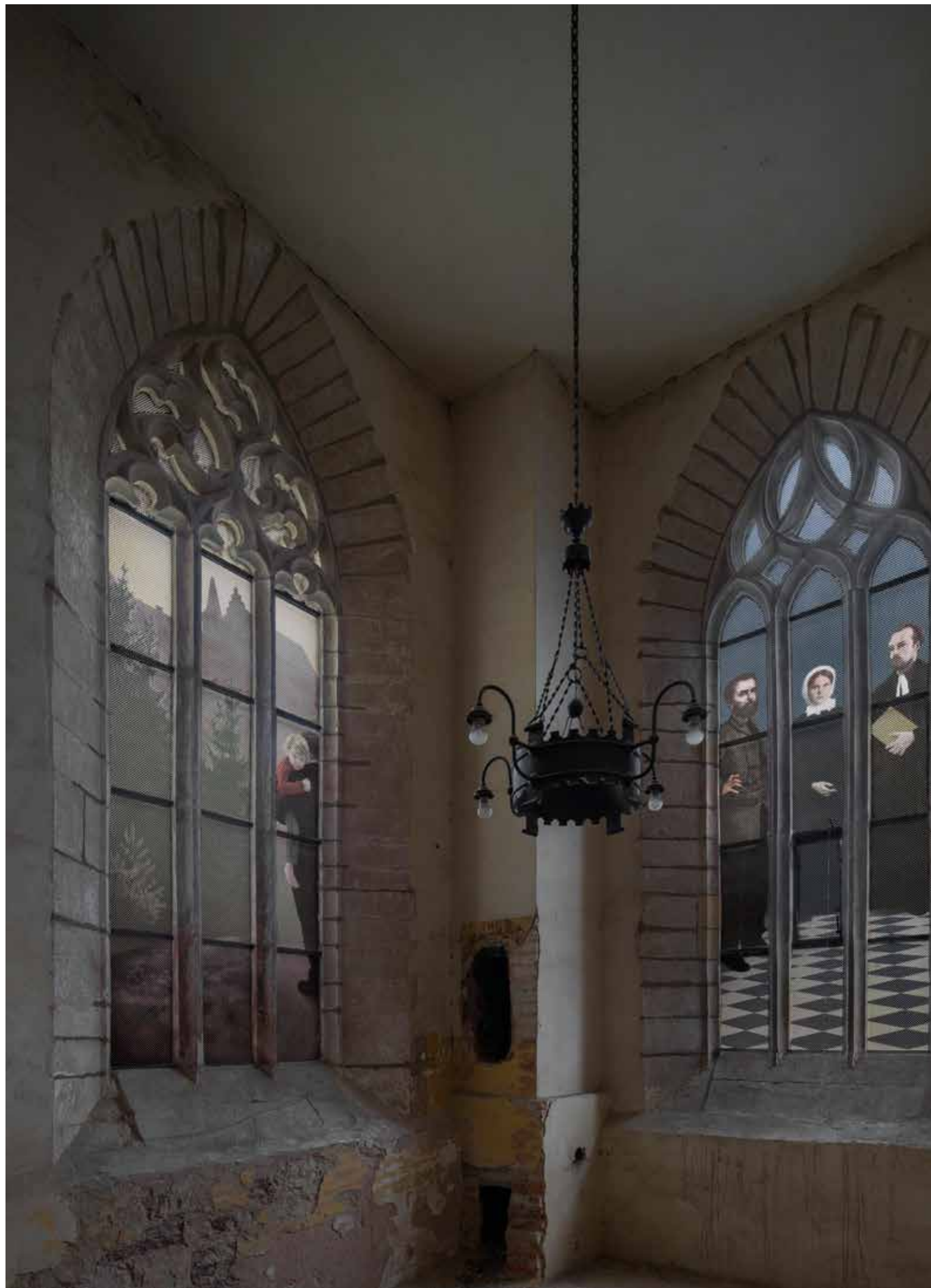
# Cranach Painting in St. George's



The Risen Christ, a painting from Cranach's workshop: the painting is by Lucas Cranach the Younger (recognizable by the artist's signature with the snake) and dates from before 1575. It was a gift from the city of Mansfeld to St. George's Church and was most recently restored in 2015.



# Modern Windows in St. George's





***In 1484 Hans and Margarethe Luder moved to Mansfeld with their son Martin. It was here, in the street named Lutherstraße today, that the future reformer grew up. Beginning in 1488 he attended the Latin School in Mansfeld, where he made life-long friends. One of his schoolmates was named Nicolaus Oemler; we know from a Bible dedication to him from 1544 that he often carried little Martin to school. In his dedication, Luther looked back on this with gratitude.***

***This important information concerning Luther's early biography was the inspiration for the creation of two modern church windows in the Count's private seating area. Julian Plodek, a painter from Leipzig, won the artists' competition for carrying out this project in 2012. His design, modern and at the same time referring back to earlier styles, convinced the jury, and the installation of the windows was implemented in the year 2014. Mansfeld's fortress and castle are recognizable in the background, while in the foreground a man, who might be a fatherly friend, is carrying a child in his arms. This is evocative of questions about our own origins and at the same time offers possibilities of identification. Who is it that carries us in and through our life?***



# Scenes from the Life of St. George





# St. George as a Martyr I

He was the most significant martyr and helper in time of need in antiquity and during the Middle Ages

*Supposedly he suffered a martyr's death as a high-ranking soldier under the Roman emperor Diocletian. From the First Crusade on he was revered as the knight St. George and was surrounded by countless legends. Among these is of course the rescue of the maiden/princess and the fight with the dragon (or lindworm), which according to tradition is said to have taken place at Lind Mountain in Mansfeld. George was even considered to be the first Mansfeld count.*

*In August 1497 the main altar of the church was dedicated to St. George. This was repeated in 1503 after a fire in the year 1498 had seriously damaged the church. A wooden relief representing the fight with the dragon presumably was part of that altar. The middle section at the rear of the "new" main altar shows scenes from the legend of St. George, including George's defeat of the dragon and his imminent execution.*



# St. George as a Martyr II

*In his childhood, Martin Luther not only came to know the legends, but certainly practiced the veneration of the saint as well. He encountered him in the church in Eisenach, and in Erfurt through the student housing named after St. George.*

*With the Reformation and its Biblical and historiographic criticism of the saints' legends, St. George was given a different role. He was no longer to be revered as a saint. In Mansfeld, this was especially evident in the pulpit, where St. George serves as its support and thereby as a visual image of the preaching of the Gospel. The new faith fights with the word of God, and not with the force of weapons. Nonetheless, the dragon remained a real power as an adversary to God. While Luther had initially identified the apocalyptic beast from Revelation with the pope, Lutheranism as it expanded could extend this to the so-called Calvinists, the reformed expression of the European reformation with its centers in Switzerland, France, and the Netherlands.*

*In the Mansfeld area, Cyriacus Spangenberg and Martin Rinckart in particular blew this religious-polemical horn, celebrating Martin Luther both as the final prophet and as "novus eques" (the new knight).*



# Mansfeld Castle



Mansfeld Castle is one of the region's most dazzling highlights and boasts a long, impressive history. Once the property of the Duchess of Mansfeld, the castle perches high above the city surrounded by a seemingly endless ocean of trees. The late-Gothic architecture of the castle's chapel, parts of the old battlement, and numerous fortress ruins all serve to remind visitors of the former political power this mighty castle was able to wield.



# Interior of Mansfeld Castle



Martin Luther often visited the castle and later in his life preached in its chapel.



# Mansfeld Today



Overview of vast rapeseed fields and the beautiful St. George's Church in the center of Mansfeld.



# Martin Luther - Important Dates

- 1483**    **November 10** - Luther born in Eisleben  
             **November 11** - Baptism on feast day of St. Martin of Tours
- 1484**    Luther's family moves to Mansfeld
- 1488**    Begins attending Latin School in Mansfeld  
             (later in Magdeburg and Eisenach)
- 1501**    Enrolls in University of Erfurt
- 1505**    Receives Master's Degree; enrolls in law school, but drops out  
             **July 2** - Almost struck by lightning; vows to become a monk  
             **July 17** - Enters the Augustinian cloister in Erfurt
- 1507**    Ordained a priest
- 1508**    Sent to University of Wittenberg to teach theology  
             **March 9** - Receives bachelor's degree in Biblical studies
- 1509**    Receives bachelor's degree in Peter Lombard's "Sententiae"  
             (authoritative commentaries on Biblical passages)
- 1512**    **October 19** - Receives Doctorate of Theology  
             **October 21** - Becomes Chair of Theology at the  
                     University of Wittenberg
- 1515**    Made Augustinian Provincial Vicar for Saxony and Thuringia
- 1516**    Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar, begins selling indulgences  
             in German territories
- 1517**    **October 31** - Luther writes to his Archbishop, Prince Albrecht  
                     von Mainz and Magdeburg, to protest sale; sends his 95 theses  
                     "On the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences" with the letter;  
                     probably does ***not*** nail them to the door of All Saints  
                     Church in Wittenberg



- 1518 January** - The 95 Theses are translated from Latin to German
- 1520** Writes three major tracts: "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation"; "On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church"; "On the Freedom of a Christian"
- 1518** Luther examined for three days at the Imperial Diet in Augsburg
- 1520 December 10** - Publicly burns Leo X's papal bull
- 1521 January 3** - Excommunicated by Pope Leo
- April 18** - Ordered to Imperial Diet at Worms; guaranteed safe conduct by Friedrich III, Elector of Saxony; is "kidnapped" on return to Wittenberg and taken to the Wartburg in Eisenach; translates New Testament from Greek to German (published in 1522)
- 1523 June 13** - Marries Katharina von Bora, a former nun
- 1524** Peasant revolts in Franconia, Swabia, and Thuringia; condemned by Luther
- 1525** Tract "Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of Peasants"
- 1526** Begins to organize a new church, establishes a new form of church service
- c. 1527** Composes text and music of "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott", followed by many more hymns in subsequent years
- 1529** Publishes Large Catechism (intended as instruction for teachers and parents) and Small Catechism (instruction for children)
- 1534** Luther and collaborators complete translation of Old Testament; entire Bible published
- 1543** Tract "On the Jews and Their Lies" (written in frustration at Jews' refusal to convert)
- 1546 February 15** - Luther's last sermon (in Eisleben)
- February 18** - Luther's death and burial in the graveyard of the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg



# Acknowledgments

The exhibit was developed by:

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Northfield, MN

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