



Dear Visitor of our church,

We cordially welcome you in our "Church to the Holy Cross" and invite you to have a rest here for some minutes. This church is the spiritual home and meeting point of our Falkenstein congregation. From Sunday to Sunday we look forward to the „beautiful worship of the Lord“ and love this house. Therefore we try to preserve this over one hundred year old construction as well and cultivate it as beautiful as possible. We compiled for you some things worth knowing on the back.

If you are staying some time in Falkenstein or its surroundings, we heartily invite you to our worships and our concerts.

A prayer:

Father, in your house I can be happy.
I am loved by you whatever is happening,
even if my feeling wants to tell me something other.
Father, in your house I can be happy,
Father, by your hand I can safely walk.
Even if I don't know the way, you certainly know it.
You are at my side in joy and grief.
Father, by your hand I can safely walk.
Amen.

Historical summary of this church

- In 1230, "Johann von Valkenstein" was given a mention for the first time. A small and solid castle with a little tower was built on top of the "Schlossfelsen".
- In 1362, the 4th April, the Church to the Holy Cross is mentioned in a document for the first time.
- In 1400, the Trützscher-Family came into possession of Falkenstein. In 1448 Falkenstein got the permission to be called a town.
- Since 1529, Falkenstein has already been protestant. The reformation spread to our region rather early and peaceful.
- In 1615, by the first great fire of the town, the church was destroyed, too, but was soon rebuilt.
- In 1632, during the Thirty-Years'-War Holksche troops brought the plague in.
- In 1641, imperial troops set fire to the town twice. The church was partially destroyed and rebuilt.
- In 1683, the church got a small organ.
- In 1729, the church was very dilapidated. That's why the parish decided to build a new one, that was
- In 1731, consecrated the 3rd Advent.
- In 1859, the last great fire of the town broke out on 12th August. Once again the town as well as the church were destroyed.
- In 1869, on 3rd October our present church was inaugurated after a construction period of 4 years. The architect Uhlig from Lengenfeld built it after plans by Christian Friedrich Arnold, an important Semper-student from Dresden. It has become one of the most beautiful churches rebuilt in neo-Gothic style.
- In 1966, a rearrangement of the interior of the church followed. The second gallery was dismantled and the interior - up to this time very dark - got a light, friendly colour combination. At the same time the big new organ was installed.
- In 1972, the tower, 71.60ms high was put scaffolding around and completely covered with sheet copper. The tower ball and the cross were new made and gilded.
- In 1978, the altar with altarpieces by Professor Gonne was destroyed caused by a fire. After the reconstruction of the church the big crucifix was placed at the altar.
- In 1983, the reconstruction of the roof truss and the whole roof began.
- From 1997 to 1999 our church tower was redeveloped. Inside the tower is stabilised by bars made of steel.

The attractions of the Church

The crucifix at the altar bears a carved life-size figure of Jesus Christ (origin about 1680). It hung in the chancel of the old church and was saved in 1859, stayed on the church loft till 1907, was then hung into the entry hall, in 1989 restored by Helmut Georgi, and from then on was fixed to the altar cross in order to remind the faithful:

"I did that for you – what are you doing for me?"

The memorial of the soldiers killed in action (at the right aisle) is a carved work of oak. It originates from after the First World War. The outline is from a Falkenstein carpenter Otto Walther, the names are carved by Albert Sachadä, Auerbach-Muehlgruen.

The coloured church windows on the gallery – you can see them from the middle passage – originate from the beginning of our century and show the raising from the dad of the young man of Nain, Jesus' Crucifixion and Jesus' Resurrection.

The Organ was built by the firm „Eule“, Bautzen, and consecrated in 1970. It is said to be the last complete work of the well-known organ constructor. It has got 39 sounding registers and 3180 pipes.

The **paintings** in the aisles go back to the two previous churches. On the right you can see "The Baptism of Jesus" (from our first church) and on the left you see "The Resurrection" (probably created between 1690 and 1710).