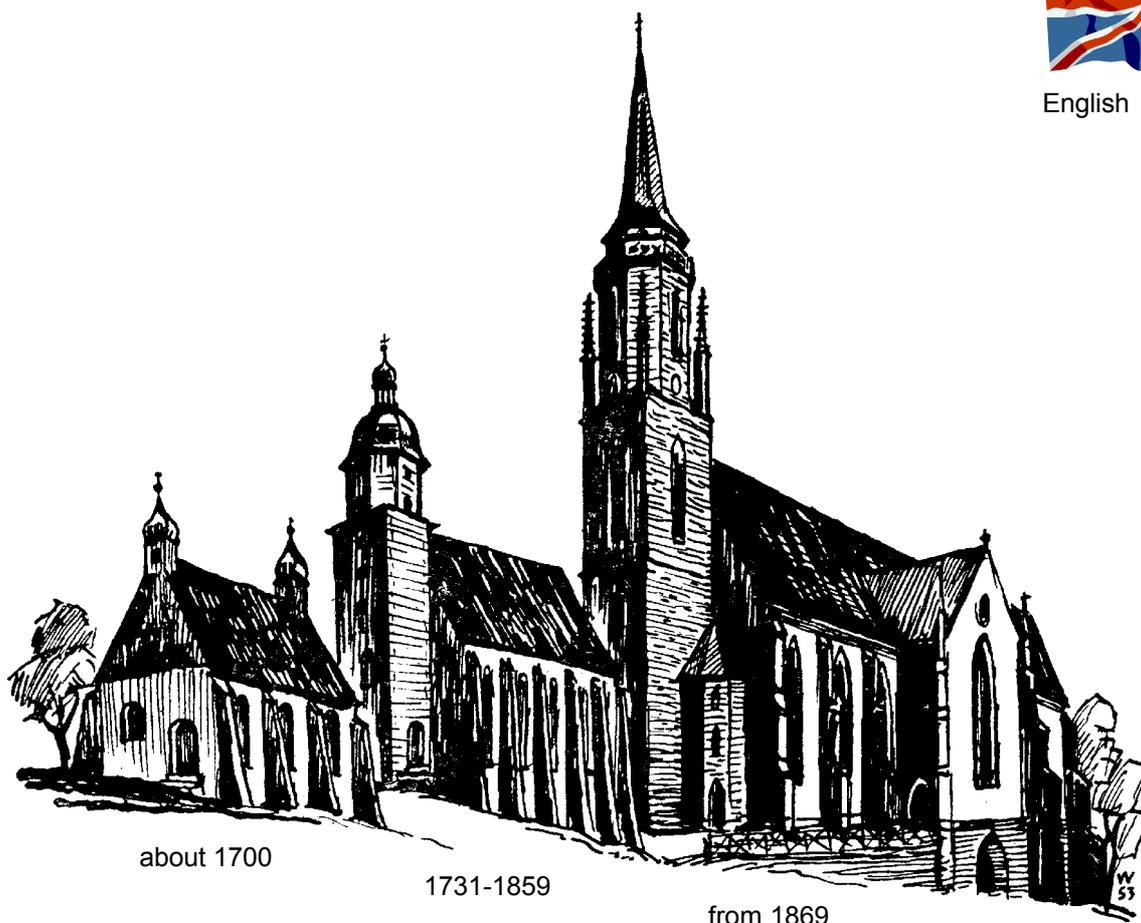




English



Dear visitor of our church,

Welcome to our church „To the Holy Cross“. We would like to invite you to stay for a couple of minutes. This house of worship is the spiritual home and meeting place for our congregation here in Falkenstein. We love this building and every week we look forward to celebrating „the beautiful service to the LORD“. For this reason we try to preserve this more than 100 years old building and embellish it as beautifully as possible.

On the back of this paper you'll find some historical information on our church building.

In case you are staying in Falkenstein or the area for some time you are very welcome attend our services and concerts.

A prayer:

Father, in your house I can be glad.
Whatever will come to pass – I will be loved by you,
even if I would not feel like it.
Father, in your house I can be glad,
father, by your side I can walk safely.
When I don't know the way, you'll know it for sure.
You are with me in times of joy and sorrow.
Father, at your side I can walk safely.
Amen.

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Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchgemeinde
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On the history of the church building

- In 1230 a Johann "von Valkenstein" was mentioned for the first time. On top of the "Schlossfelsen" a small solid fortress with a little tower was built.
- In 1362 the "Church To The Holy Cross" was mentioned for the first time in official documents.
- In 1400 Falkenstein became part of the possession of the Trützscher-family and in 1448 got town privileges.
- Since 1529 Falkenstein has been protestant. The Reformation effected our region rather early and peacefully.
- In 1615 the church burnt down completely due to a townfire but soon was rebuilt.
- In 1632, during the 30-years-war Holk'sche troops brought the pestilence in.
- In 1641 imperial troops set the town on fire twice. The church building was partially destroyed and rebuilt.
- In 1683 a small organ was installed
- In 1729 the building was in such a bad shape that they decided to tare it down and build a bigger church.
- In 1731 it was consecrated on the 3rd Advent.
- In 1859 the last big fire broke out on August 12th. Again almost the whole town and the church building were destroyed.
- In 1869, after 4 years of building, our present church was consecrated on October 3rd. Architect Uhlig from Lengenfeld built it according to construction plans by Christian Friedrich Arnold, an important Semper-student from Dresden. It became 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 / 234.9 feet high, was completely covered with sheet copper. The tower ball and the cross were remade and gilded.
- In 1978 the winged altar with paintings by Professor Gonne was destroyed due to a fire. After the reconstruction of the church the big crucifix was placed on the altar.
- In 1983 the reconstruction of the roof truss and the whole roof began.
- From 1997 to 1999 our church tower was restored and stabilized with steal bars from within.

Attractions

At the crucifix on the altar you can see a carved life-size figure of Christ (time of origin around 1680). It hung in the chancel of the old church and was saved during one of the town fires in 1859, stayed in the church loft till 1907, then hung in the entry hall. In 1989 it was restored by Helmut Georgi, and then installed on the altar cross in order to remind the believers: "This is what I did for you – what are you doing for me?"

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

The coloured church windows – you can see them from the middle passage – originate from the beginning of the 20th 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 has got 39 sounding registers and 3180 pipes.

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