



# Welcome!



The church of St. Jacobi, Lutheran since 1530, is named after James, one of Jesus' disciples and the patron saint of pilgrims. The church was built between 1360 and 1400, right on the old trade road through the Leine valley. The tower, erected 1426-33, is 72 metres tall; 273 stairs lead to the visitors' platform.

The unusual **decoration of the pillars** has been restored according to remaining patterns from the Renaissance period (around 1480). Depending on your viewpoint, the pillars seem to grow wider or slimmer at the top. The six memorial slabs from 1807 to 1774, which are on display near the entrance, used to cover the tombs in the nave.

The splendid **altar from 1402** has three faces or fronts which are opened or closed according to the ecclesiastical year. A small model on the right of the chancel will show you what the respective faces looks like. The outer or "weekday" face, shown in lent before Christmas and Easter, tells the story of St. James the Great. The gilded interior or "holiday" front, opened for Christmas and Easter, displays Christ on his throne and Mary (or the church) on his right, surrounded by prophets, apostles and saints. The beautiful paintings of the middle or "Sunday" front, which is shown during the rest of the year, illustrate Jesus's life from the annunciation to his resurrection.

The **windows in the chancel**, created by the workshop of Henning & Andres (Hannover) in 1900, show the 12-year-old Jesus interpreting scripture in the temple, the crucifixion and, on the right, the resurrected Christ and two disciples on their way to Emmaus. The windows in the southern aisle, designed by Lauterbach & Schröder (Hannover) in 1901, present scenes from the reformation in Göttingen in 1529/30. In 1997/98, Johannes Schreiter

created five visual meditations on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm for the **five windows of the northern aisle**. The cycle suggests God's seeming absence, the experience of death, a prayer answered, God's presence in the congregation and, finally, hope for the resurrection of the dead. The best view is from the south aisle where you will also find further information on Schreiter's windows.

The **neo-gothic pulpit** (1901) features carved figures representing Christ, some apostles and Luther. The **font of 1643** with the donor's name and coat of arms probably replaced a bronze bowl which was stolen in the Thirty Years' War. On its right is an **Italian organ** built by Vincenzo Ragone (Genoa) in 1844. The **main organ** above the portal was made by the Göttingen workshop of Paul Ott in 1966 and enlarged by Siegfried Schmid (Immenstadt) in 2007. It features four manuals and a pedal, 68 stops and 4806 pipes.

**For more details on the history and artwork** of St. James we recommend our **guidebook** (German or English). You can find up-to-date information about current events in the magazine *KIRCHE FÜR DIE STADT* and on our websites [www.jacobikirche.de](http://www.jacobikirche.de) and [www.jacobikantorei.de](http://www.jacobikantorei.de).

Regular services are on Sundays at 10 a.m. An organ recital takes place every Friday at 6 p.m. (except January and February). Every Saturday at 11:30 a.m. the carillon is played from the tower, followed by music for organ and trumpet in the church at 11:45 a.m.

**Please return this sheet after your tour.**

**Many thanks for your visit!**