



### **LutherFacts #5**

Martin Luther called his wife Katharina "the morning star of Wittenberg" because she regularly rose early to attend to her many duties. Her reputation for hard work preceded becoming Luther's wife when she was a nun in Marienthron Convent. By 1523, she had heard Luther preach and was ready to join the growing ranks of those seeking church reforms. Once free of the nunnery, Katharina urged Martin in 1525 to marry her, and he agreed. For the next twenty-one years, she stood beside him as the Reformation unfolded, providing love, counsel, and much needed income from managing the local farms, running a brewery, and boarding students. After Martin's death in 1546, life grew harder for Katharina, but she again found ways to support her family. She died in 1552 and her impressive tombstone in the Torgau church can still be visited.

Image: Portrait of Katharina von Bora by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1528 Oil on panel  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharina\\_von\\_Bora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharina_von_Bora))

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Note: There is also an image of Katharina's full-body tomb available at:  
[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marienkirche\\_\(Torgau\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marienkirche_(Torgau))