



**Salvator Church –
Protestant City Church for Duisburg**

**Protestant Church Congregation
Old-Duisburg**

Church Opening Hours:
Tuesday to Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Public guided tours of the church:
Every first Sunday of the month at 3 p.m.

To book for group guided tours:
Tel. (0203) 20824

All photos without reference to sources:
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Translation: Ella Becker-Stewart, Duisburg

The Windows of Salvator Church

The concept for the windows of Salvator Church begins in 1955 with the creation of the three large windows in the apse. Worked according to designs by Karl Hellwig, the windows show the paradise story in Genesis 2 (left window) and scenes from the history of early Christianity, for example, the Pentecost miracle in The Acts of the Apostles 2 (right window).

The “Salvator Window” stands as the focal point in the choir area, facing East. This central window shows, at the top, Jesus Christ as salvator mundi, as the risen Saviour of the world. Underneath, we recognize scenes from the life of Jesus.

The designs for the windows in the aisles of the church are, for the most part, by Claus Pohl. The windows on the north side (to the left of the main entrance) are dedicated to individual books and themes of the New Testament (The Gospel according to John, The Gospel according to Mark, The Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, The Gospel according to Luke and The Gospel according to Matthew), the windows on the south side (to the right of the main entrance) tell of prophetic figures of the Hebrew Bible (Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Amos, Isaiah and Abraham).

The Baptismal Window
by Berthold Jahnke



The Baptism of Jesus
by Claus Pohl



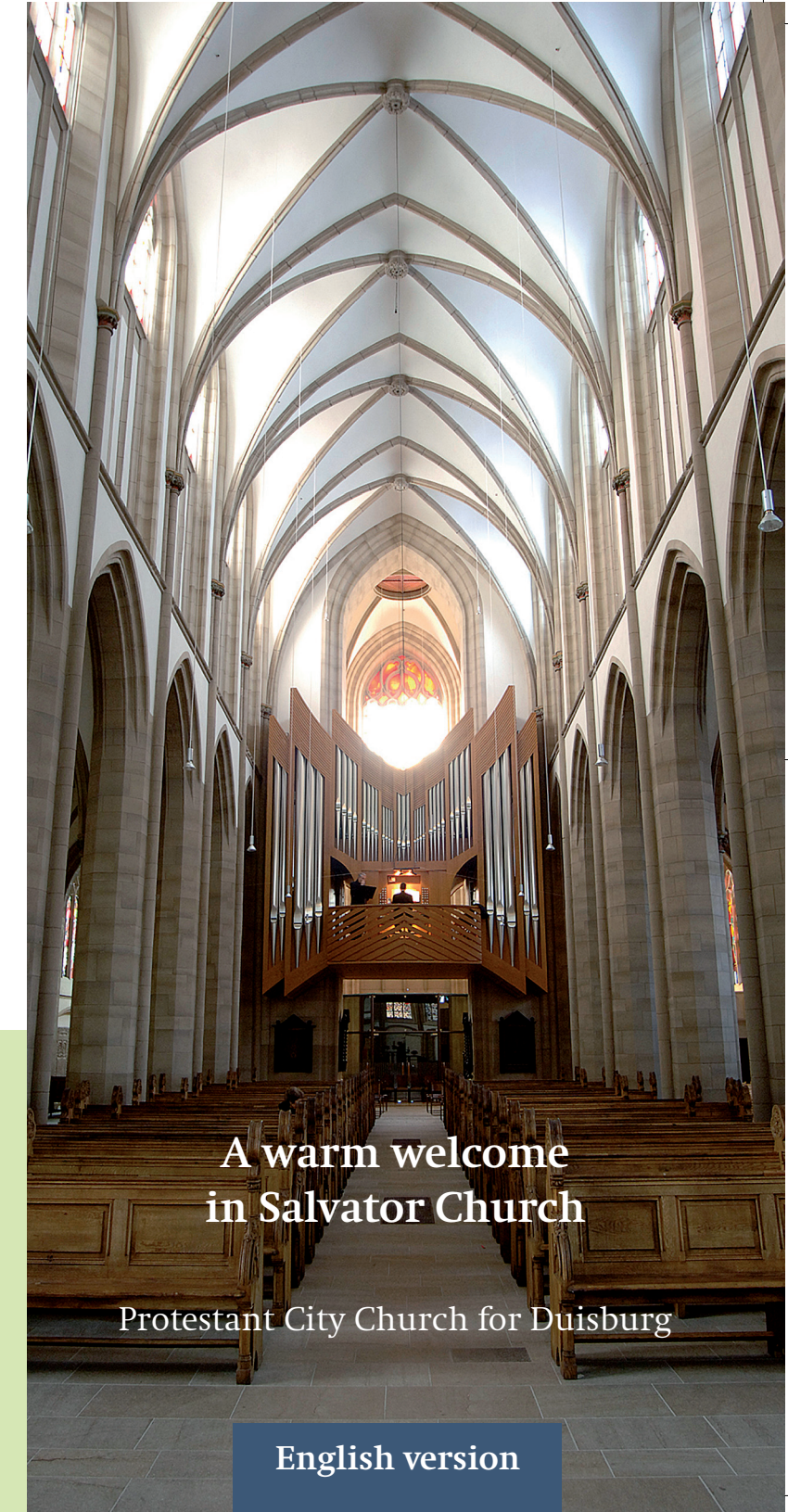
Foto: Beckstet, wikipedia.de



The Memorial Window by Naftali Bezem

The windows of a more abstract nature are based on designs by Berthold Jahnke, for example, the six windows in the South Chapel which represent each day’s work of the creation story according to Genesis 1. Included in the “Jahnke Windows” is also the large west window on The Revelation of John, above the main entrance of the church and the baptismal window beside the baptismal font in the North Chapel.

Special significance belongs to the Memorial Window for the old synagogue in Duisburg, which is on the right beside the main entrance and looks onto the City Hall. Created to a design by the Jewish artist, Naftali Bezem, it shows the destruction of the synagogue by the National Socialists on 9.11.1938.



**A warm welcome
in Salvator Church**

Protestant City Church for Duisburg

English version

Salvator Church is Duisburg’s Protestant City Church

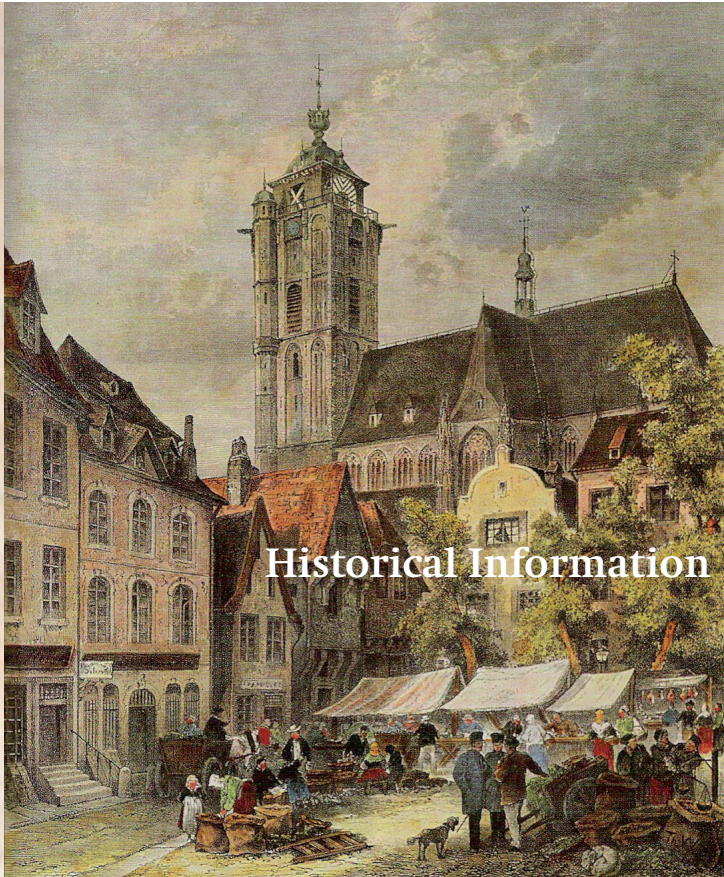
It is one of the most important historical monuments of our city and, at the same time, a lively place of worship, offering a diversity of spiritual and cultural events.

This cost-free flyer will help you to explore the church on your own. It contains important historical facts and references to the windows without claiming to be exhaustive.

If you would like to know more about Salvator Church, we recommend that you buy our booklet “Salvator Church in Duisburg“ which can be obtained for 4 Euros from the person on duty in the church. We also extend a warm invitation to you to take part in one of our open guided tours of the church which take place on the first Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. You can find the latest information on the events in Salvator Church on the internet under [www. Salvatorkirche.de](http://www.Salvatorkirche.de).

The Protestant church congregation “Old-Duisburg” wishes you an enjoyable visit to our church.

View of the interior (the apse) of Salvator Church



Theodor Weber: Market Square, Duisburg 1850 (Source: wikipedia)

Historical Information

10th and 11th cenuries

About 800 A.D. the Franks establish a royal palace as an administrative centre on Castle Square, because of the favourable traffic situation on the Rhine and Hellweg. The wooden chapel belonging to the palace is the precursor of the present-day Salvator Church. It is mentioned about 900 A.D. in a document in the assessment register of Prüm Abbey in the Eifel. About 1000 A.D. the wooden chapel is replaced by a Romanesque building in stone.

12th and 13th centuries.

In 1254 the Teutonic Order of Knights take over the patronage of the church. Including the Romanesque ground plan, the Knights build a Gothic basilica with colonnades, having a central nave with an aisle on either side. In the course of many years, the place of worship is decorated, among other things with choir stalls, the Salvator statue, eleven Apostle figures, a baptismal font and the tabernacle (the baptismal font and the tabernacle are still in the church today.)

Town Hall and Salvator Church 1925 (Source: wikipedia)



14th and 15th centuries

On Palm Sunday 1467 the church tower burns down. In the same year there follows the laying of the foundation stone for a new tower which is built up again in the year 1493. It has a height of 106 metres and serves the town as a watchtower.

16th and 17th centuries

In 1571 this church becomes Protestant. In 1594 the cartographer Gerhard Mercator dies and is buried in the church. In 1610 there is the meeting in Salvator Church of the first general synod of the reformed congregations of the duchies Jülich, Kleve and Berg. Decisions are taken which today are still a central part of the church rules of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland. In 1655 the foundation ceremony of the first Protestant University of Prussia takes place in Salvator Church, the first vice-chancellor is the theology professor, Johannes Clauberg.

18th and 19th centuries

In 1720, during the occupation of the Rhineland by the French, the church is misused as a granary and a stable for horses. In 1850 a generous gift from the German Emperor facilitates the beginning of an extensive renovation of the church. In 1891 Lord Mayor Lehr establishes a building association to continue the renovation of the church which is completed in 1904.

20th and 21st centuries

On 13th May 1943 Salvator Church is struck during a devastating bombing raid on Duisburg. The burning church tower falls on the nave and the church is completely gutted. In 1960 the rebuilding is completed. From 1989 to 2002 a general renovation of Salvator Church is carried out. A new organ, built by the Swiss firm Kuhn, is put into service at Michaelmas 2002.

Mercator-Epitaph

A stone plaque in the South Chapel commemorates Gerhard Mercator.

The well-known cartographer is responsible for the so-called “Mercator Projection” and the development of the atlas of maps. Born in Flanders in 1512, Mercator lived and worked in close proximity to Salvator Church; he was interred in Salvator Church in 1594. The portrait on the epitaph shows Gerhard Mercator about one year before his death.

The numerous, further epitaphs in the church are dedicated to distinguished citizens of Duisburg, most of whom were buried in the church.

