

Reformation ideas of Martin Luther spread also to the region of Liptov in the early 16th century. People in Liptovský Mikuláš were so impressed that almost everybody converted to the Lutheran church. Since the mid 16th century, Lutheran pastors were preaching even at the Church of St. Nicholas, which had been Catholic. Juraj Tranovský, the author of the Lutheran hymnal Cithara sanctorum too. After the church had been returned to the Catholic church in 1680, Lutherans used the church in Paludza, 8 km far, for another hundred years. Since 1785, they have had their own church that was built in today's historic town district. People restored the choir of Vrbica – Liptovský Mikuláš and focused on active religious work, charity, education and culture. A parish office, a Lutheran school (present-day gallery), the Transcius publishing house and a Lutheran church house were built at the church. A Lutheran quarter was created here and witnessed significant events during the era of M.M.Hodža – establishing of the first national cultural society – Tatrin and compiling the first political programme of Slovaks – The Demands of the Slovak Nation. When Juraj Janoška was ordained the first head bishop of the Lutheran church, Liptovský Mikuláš became bishop's seat.

President Edvard Beneš and guests from Denmark, Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia joined the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Cithara sanctorum too. Bishop Vladimír Čobrna in the foreground, Danish pastor prof. Jørgensen and bishop Samuel Osuský behind him.



Precious guests celebrating the 300th anniversary of Cithara sanctorum leaving the church, 1936.




 Congregation of
 Evangelical Church of A C
 Lipt. Mikuláš


**SUMMER ORGAN
 HALF-HOURS**
 EVERY TUESDAY
 at 16.00

The southern facade of the oldest "tolerance" church in Liptov. The tower with the main church entrance is decorated with larger-than-life sculptures of eminent pastors – Juraj Tranovský and Michal Miloslav Hodža, made by Ladislav Pollák in 1950. The Liptov gallery (former Lutheran school) on the left, the old parish office on the right.

Available for the public:
1st July – 31st August

Mo-Fr: 10:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00

Church service: every Sunday at 9:00



Voluntary admission fees, meant to support the renovation of the sacral monument.

Advance arrangements at the Parish office outside the tourist season possible.

Tranovského ulica 6, Liptovský Mikuláš

Phone: +421/44/552 21 46

www.ecavlm.sk



The Lutheran church is included also in the 1-hour sightseeing tour **Landmarks of the history of Liptovský Mikuláš**. Booking:

 **INFORMATION CENTRE** of the town Liptovský Mikuláš
 Námestie mieru 1 1. 7. – 14. 9.:
 +421/44/16 186, 552 24 18 Mo-Su: 9:00-17:00
www.mikulas.travel 15. 9. – 30. 6.: Mo-Sa: 9:00-17:00

 **AUDIO GUIDE**
 to the Lutheran church

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LIPTOV
 SLOVAKIA



The Lutheran church in Liptovský Mikuláš could be built only after the Edict of Tolerance had been promulgated by Joseph II in 1781, which enabled Lutherans to construct churches, however, only outside squares and without towers or bells. Lutherans of 13 towns and villages in the Liptov region helped build the church of Mikuláš in 1783-1785. The simple classicistic building without a tower had served for almost hundred years when the town was hit by fire that damaged the attic and parish office. During the church renovation, walls were made higher and a massive tower was added to the southern wall to serve as the entrance. The three-nave vaulted space features big galleries over the side naves, which makes the temple one of the biggest Lutheran churches in Slovakia with 1,700 seats. The interior with a classicistic pulpit is dominated by a big late baroque altar with an extension and side sections. The precious organ on the western gallery dates back to 1892.



2a Common coat of arms of the Okoličáni and Smrečáni families, who donated the altar to the church in 1806.

9 The archive of the Lutheran congregation contains unique pieces such as beautiful embroidered historic towels, precious paintings and several copies of Cithara sanctorum. The first edition of 1636 contained 412 religious songs; their number grew to 1,300 later. A part of the archive is opened in the old Lutheran parish office.



- 1 The pulpit was given to the church by district governor Emerich Pongrácz and his wife in 1806. Their coats of arms decorate the pulpit roof structure.
- 2 Late baroque altar (6.5 m high) with wood carving decorations and gilded elements. Sculptures of evangelists Matthew and John on the sides of the Crucified Christ (painting), archangel Michael with a devil at his feet and a symbol of God's eye over the donator's coat of arms (2a).
- 3 Marble baptismal font from 1935 with a copper cover.
- 4 Memorial plaques dedicated to Juraj Janoška, M. M. Hodža, Juraj Tranovský, Vladimír Kuna and the 500th anniversary of the reformation.
- 5 Original crystal chandeliers were too heavy for the vault and had to be replaced by new ones made of Slovak crystal.
- 6 Galleries over side naves and in the western section.
- 7 Added tower with three bells and the main entrance.
- 8 Sandstone sculptures of Juraj Tranovský and M. M. Hodža.
- 9 Old parish office with expositions: Tatrín and The Demands of the Slovak Nation.



The Library of Juraj Tranovský with precious copies of Cithara sanctorum is the basic element of the new historic library in the old Lutheran parish office. The library consists of more than 2,200 valuable books, printed material and manuscripts. The oldest

book dates back to 1592. The library is owned by Tranoscious, one of the oldest publishing houses in Slovakia, which was founded by Lutherans in Liptovský Mikuláš in 1898. It can be used by scientists and researchers.

