



### **Earlier pilgrimage chapels and monasteries of the Forest Friars**

Here, near the old church bell, the government of Lucerne built the first pilgrimage chapel in 1583/1584. It remained active for 168 years. Once the congregation of pilgrims outgrew the building, the parish of Luthern decided to erect a new chapel, which was consecrated in 1752. The second chapel was demolished after the construction of the new pilgrimage church in 1950.

For a long time, the parish priest of Luthern oversaw the pilgrimage. In 1863, the bishops sought to establish an ecclesiastical community for Switzerland's "hermits". They chose Luthern Bad as its centre. Behind the pilgrimage church, a monastery was built for the group, who called themselves the Forest Friars (*Waldbrüder*). They looked after the pilgrims together with a chaplain. But as early as 1910, they were called to Oberwil on Lake Zug for nursing duties. The abandoned monastery was used as an orphanage by the Seraphisches Liebeswerk Solothurn charity between 1934 and 1971. In 1992, it made way for flats. Its old monastery cellar remains intact. The kirschen spa building was erected by the Forest Friars in 1902 under the direction of the elder Josephat.

### **The Badbrännli spring**

The glad tidings of Jakob Minder's miraculous recovery in 1581 rapidly spread across and beyond the hinterland of Lucerne. Pilgrims flocked to the mineral spring, now called the "Badbrännli", in hopes of curing their own ailments. The water was collected in buckets and filled into wooden tubs and baths in the lowlands. Here, the pilgrims bathed their ailing limbs.

But the sensational events taking place in Luthern Bad were not accepted without question: Jakob Minder had to confirm his experience by oath in front of a delegation of the government of Lucerne. Renward Cysat, the town scribe of Lucerne, wrote the protocol. Assured of the miracle, the government of Lucerne built the first chapel, dedicated to Mother Mary, in 1583/1584. It stood close to the site of the second chapel, which had been demolished in 1952.

The parish of Luthern wanted another small place of worship for quiet reflection near the spring. In 1863, it had the chapel next to the Badbrännli built.

You may drink its water, wash your eyes with it, dip your arms and hands into it or take some Badbrännli water home with you.

### **The new pilgrimage church**

Because the pilgrimage chapel of 1752 had become too small for the many pilgrims arriving in Luthern, the parish decided to erect a new building. Based on plans by the Lucerne architect August Boyer, the third and last pilgrimage church was built in 1949/1950, and it survives to this day. With its simple architecture, the church blends well into its surroundings.

Its stained-glass paintings were created by Eduard Renggli, an artist from Lucerne. The paintings in the choir depict Jakob Minder's dream, while those in the vestibule illustrate the history of Luthern Bad. In the foyer, you can see the oldest Miraculous Madonna of the pilgrimage site. Draped in Spanish robes, the Blessed Mother is surrounded by votive tablets which pilgrims used to thank her for her intercession. The tower room houses many more such votive tablets, old and newer.

Luthern Bad is called "the small man's Einsiedeln" or "little Einsiedeln". This explains why there is a black Madonna in the choir.

The Madonna that used to adorn the main altar of the old chapel stands in the matroneum.



### **The Dreilindenplatz square**

You are standing on the Dreilindenplatz square in Luthern Bad. Much like Luthern's town square, it is lined with lime trees. These symbolic trees can tell you something about the special history of the town, which is rooted in the miraculous recovery of Jakob Minder in the water of the Badbrünnli spring. Lime trees have been associated with the Virgin Mary for a very long time. Our three lime trees, too, indicate that you may count on Mary's blessings in Luthern Bad. The pilgrimage town of Luthern Bad invites you to take time for quiet reflection and a faithful encounter with God.

In the shadow of the lime trees, there are three inviting sets. At the round bench, the Luthern Bad Foundation, which seeks to preserve and invigorate the traditional pilgrimage town and leisure resort, has erected sponsors' plaques for generous givers.

From the Dreilindenplatz square, you can easily walk to the Jakob Minder Cross, the Badbrünnli, the site of the earlier pilgrimage chapels and the Forest Friars' monastery, and the new pilgrimage church.

### **The Jakob Minder Cross**

Jakob Minder's house used to stand near this cross. The farmer lived here with his wife and six children. For twenty years, he had been afflicted with gout, which made his work very difficult. On the eve of Pentecost in 1581, a vision of the Miraculous Madonna of Einsiedeln appeared to him in a dream. She told him to dig behind his house to find a spring. He should wash himself with its water. Jakob Minder did as he had been told, and the water cured his long-standing ailment. The glad tidings of the healing spring soon spread far and wide.

Because Jakob Minder prayed to the Madonna of Einsiedeln, Luthern Bad is called "the small man's Einsiedeln" or "little Einsiedeln". Many people have found in it a good substitute for the famous Swiss pilgrimage destination.

When you follow the path, you will reach the spring, which continues to bear water to this day.

### **The Luthernbrunnen fountain**

The pilgrimage site of Luthern Bad has two fountains: the Badbrünnli spring near the rear chapel and the Luthernbrunnen in front of you.

The Badbrünnli is the spring that began to flow thanks to Mother Mary's intercession in 1581 and cured Jakob Minder's gout.

The Luthernbrunnen was built in 2009 and does not receive its water from the Badbrünnli. It is not here for drawing water or bathing your limbs. Instead, it seeks to draw your gaze to its quiet, steadily flowing water and encourage you to take a minute to stay, rest and be inspired. Water is a primordial element and a symbol of life. Its cleansing power is an incredible gift from nature to us humans.

Take a stone from the basket and place it in the Luthernbrunnen's water to symbolise a wish or your gratitude.