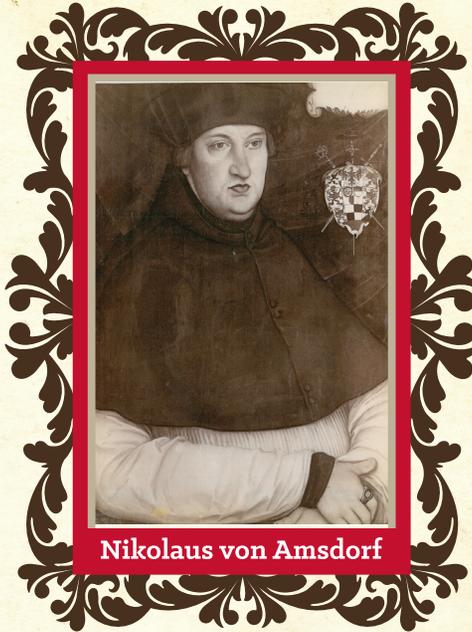


Luther's faithful friend and defender



Nikolaus von Amsdorf

NIKOLAUS VON
AMSDORF

Born: Dec. 3, 1483 |
Torgau, Germany

Died: May 14, 1565 |
Eisenach, Germany

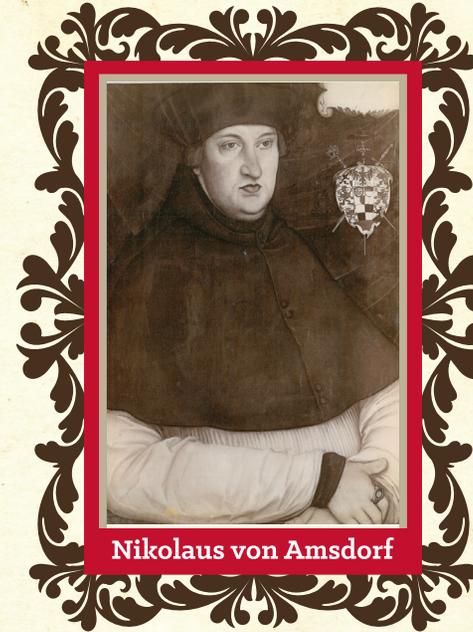
ALREADY A PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AT WITTENBERG when Luther was called there to teach, Nikolaus von Amsdorf was won over to the Reformation and became one of Luther's closest friends. In 1524, Amsdorf took a call to Magdeburg, where he had to contend with Papists and radicals in his efforts to win the city for the Reformation. Due in large part to Amsdorf's efforts and his reputation as a staunch defender of Luther's teaching, Magdeburg flourished into a stalwart bastion of Lutheranism. After almost two decades of service in Magdeburg, Amsdorf acted for a short period as the bishop of Naumberg-Zeitz before being driven out when the Smalcald War broke out in 1546. Afterward, Amsdorf retired but continued to be an active force within the church until his death. He was involved in a number of theological controversies, maintaining Luther's position against any compromise, and was instrumental in establishing the University of Jena.



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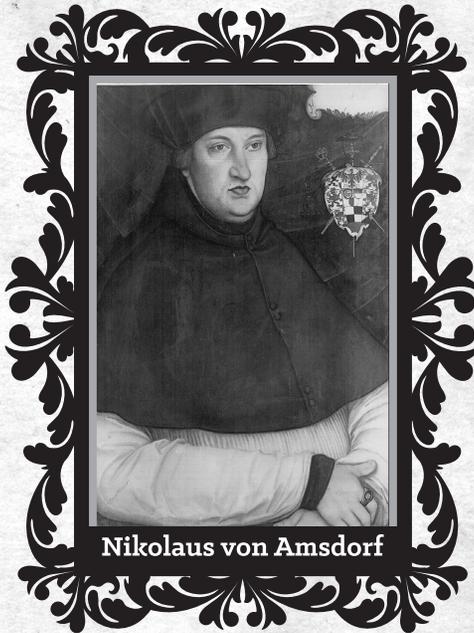
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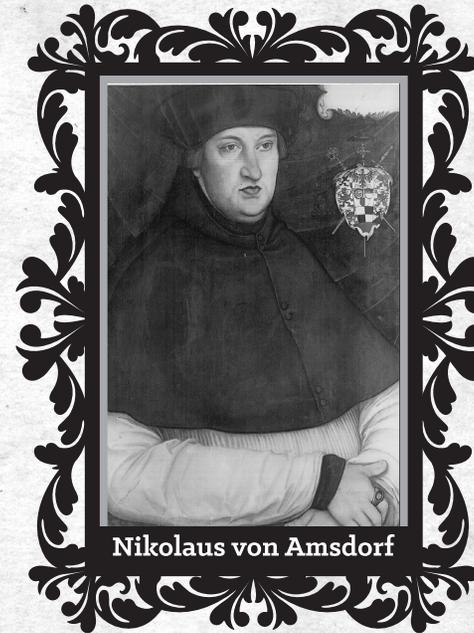
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