

Welcome to *the church of Leksberg*



**Svenska
kyrkan**

Mariestads
församling



Interior of the beautifully decorated church.



The church of Leksberg

The Church of Leksberg is one of the four churches that belong to the parish of Mariestad. The church is beautifully decorated in a late Baroque style and it is a popular wedding and baptismal church. The church was probably built in the 14th century, possibly even earlier.

In 1738 the medieval chancel was replaced by the octagonal one and the old saint-images disappeared as well as the triumphal crucifix.

In 1760 it was decided that the detached, old wooden bell-tower had to be replaced. A stone tower was built by the western gable of the church and the two bells from the Middle Ages were installed in the new tower. The big bell, from the 14th century, has the Saint Olof's pilgrim's mark, and the smaller bell has a pentagram. In ancient times the church was named Saint Olof's church after the Norwegian saint Olof. He was very popular in this part of Sweden as our neighbour county Bohuslän belonged to Norway in the Middle Ages.



The old altar-decoration from 1679 was covered with paint and then hidden away in one of the towers for 74 years!





In the chancel, to the right, is the medieval baptismal font.



Over the door to the vestry hangs an epitaph (memory-picture) in memory of the Herzberg family who also has a grave-slab in the chancel, in front of the altar.



In the chancel you can also find boards for the hymn numbers from 1817 and 1825 and the piscine of recent date. ▶▶▶

The pulpit from 1900 and the canopy over it is from the 17th century.



In 1804 hangings were painted around the windows and doors by County Governor A Hierta. ▶▶▶
Further down on the southern wall some medieval wall-paintings were discovered in 1930.



The ceiling of the church was richly decorated in 1741 by the painter Olof Collander (Mariestad) and his pupil Johan Liedholm. The paintings describe Jesus in different situations according to the gospels of Mathew and Luke. The style is regarded as representative of the post-reformatory church painting style called the Läckö school.

Exterior



Since 1828 the main entrance is situated in the stone-tower.



The earlier entrance on the south side was walled up for a time but is now opened up again and the porch is used as a bridal chamber.



When restoring the church in 1738 a man's head made in stone, that used to be in the chancel, was built in over the entrance door. No one knows who this little sculpture represents! ▶▶▶



On the outside of the western wall of the vestry there are four remarkable stones called "lily stones". Over 400 stones have been found in the area around Kinnekulle. The stones have a wonderful carved relief pattern with a motif connected to the Tree of Life, the symbol of life, death and eternity – the central aspects of the Christian faith. We don't know what function these stones once had, maybe they were placed in the chancel to inspire prayer, meditation and service. ▶▶▶

