

English-Guide for visitors

Church St. Jacob the Elder – Cuxhaven-Lüdingworth

Dear church visitor,

On this sheet you find some facts about this church. They should be sufficient for the first tour. But if you want to get to know more, you should buy an illustrated guide, please. (At the time available only in German) You can also get it at the grocer Harm's opposite the church.

The church was built as a Romanesque field-stone church at the end of the twelfth century. A new brick apse was added in the sixteenth century. 1608/09 it was completed in its present shape with its beautiful rib vault.

In the apse there are precious old works of art:

A baptismal font (about 1200) with an old fireplace underneath which was used to warm up the baptismal water. Originally it stood in a chapel in the Lüdingworth landmark that was pulled down at the end of the Middle Ages.

A wooden column which was made as a shaft of the host shrine in the fourteenth century.

A pieta made of oak (middle of the fifteenth century) with a touching expression of suffering on the Virgin's face.

An altar with side-pieces (about 1430) which depicts scenes of Virgin Mary's life. Probably the altar comes from the chapel of Lüderskoop as well. Originally it had been the main altar until it was replaced by the present altar in 1665, which depicts Jesus' life.

In front of the passage to the apse a Gothic eagle on a Renaissance reading-desk is remarkable. Underneath there are stone tombs from the eighteenth century. Above the entrance from the apse to the chancel itself there is a Triumphal Cross from the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Since 1607 the pulpit has been on the arch that separates the apse from the nave. It depicts the most important stories of the New Testament on reliefs showing a lot of figures and it is carried by a sculpture of Moses. Farmer's coats of arms give evidence of the donors of these reliefs (Such coats of arms and the names of the families to whom they belonged you can find at different places in this church.). On the sounding top of the pulpit there are the twelve apostles and – as the coping-stone – a sculpture of the Redeemer.

A decorated joist ceiling (end of the sixteenth century) in Renaissance style with a lot of round medallions and ornaments covers the nave. On the side walls there are epitaphs in memory of personages of the parish. On two of the galleries wealthy farmers' families had their reserved seats in former times.

On the western gallery there is the organ with the largest compact register of the Renaissance in Germany still existent today. It was built by Antonius Wilde in 1598/99. In 1682/83 Arp Schnitger extended it slightly and completed it by a new back positive that has remained as well.

This rich and precious church is not regarded as a museum by the parish, but their house for prayers, as Jesus said: " My house shall be a house of prayers".

The church is open from April to October daily from 9 o'clock a.m. till 5 o'clock p.m.
During the winter open on Sundays till 3 o'clock p.m.

You are welcome to visit us again. We wish you a pleasant holiday.

The parish