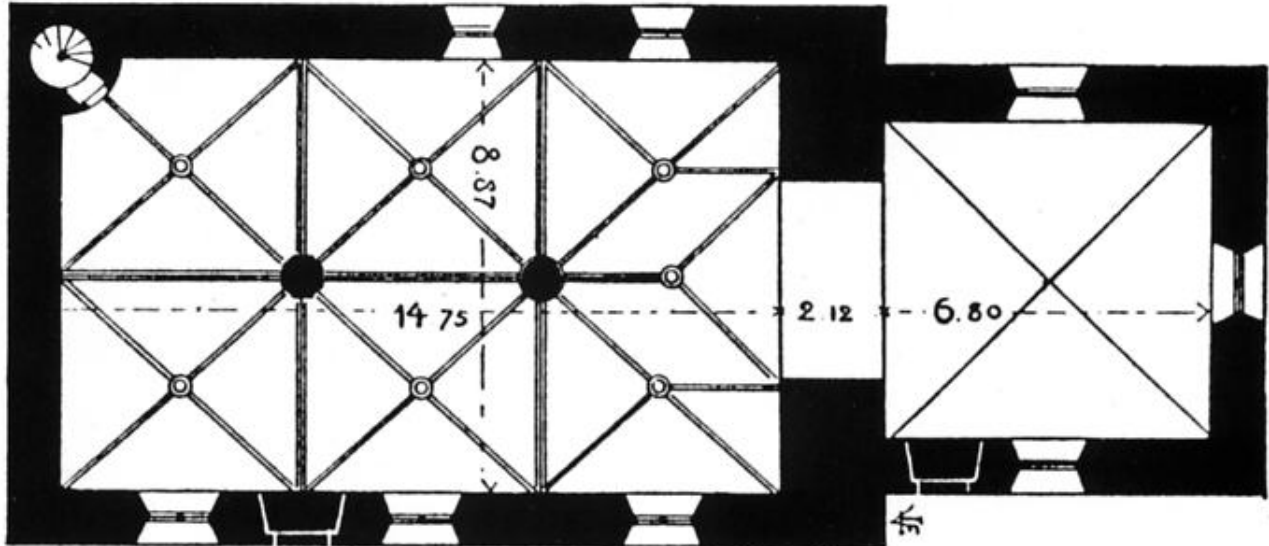




Evangelische Marienkirche Niederweidbach



Evangelische Kirche, Grundriss

The groundplan has three mistakes. Find them.

1. **Protestant church for Mary:** You are in a protestant church which is dedicated to Mary (patrocinium). The reason is: The church was built in catholic times 1498/1520, Niederweidbach became protestant in 1533. The patrocinium (and the altar) remained.
2. **Niederweidbach:** You are in Niederweidbach, a village with a population of about 1000. In the Middle Ages Niederweidbach belonged ecclesiastical to Trier, which is about 170 kilometers/105 miles away (linear distance). The diocese of Trier is a very old one in Germany. The dean lived in Wetzlar, which is 15 kilometers/10 miles away (linear distance). Niederweidbach is close to the old border to another diocese. The “mother church” of Niederweidbach is Altenkirchen, which you can see if stand on the courtyard, the old church yard.
3. **Tower:** The tower is 700 years old. The counts of Solms spread into to this area. In 1292 they bought rights in the parish of Altenkirchen. We date the tower in Niederweidbach in this time. It was a fortified tower and a church. The font is from this time. The font is late romanesque or early gothic. There is sort of tracery on it, but with round bows.
4. **“Motorway church”:** In 1357 an old trade route was relocated. Now, the trade route from Leipzig to Cologne led through Niederweidbach. Cologne was a station to Santiago de Compostella in Spain. The traders came through Niederweidbach and during the wars the army.
5. **Resting place before/ after the hills of Gladenbach:** Niederweidbach was a resting place, it is before/after the hills of Gladenbach. The traders and the horses were thirsty. In Niederweidbach there were 14 inns – and a church for a prayer.

6. **Nave:** From about 1498 to about 1520 the nave was added to the tower. Principal was count Philipp of Solms-Lich and – most likely – the bishop of Trier, Richard of Greiffenklau. The church has two aisles. A couple of churches in the old diocese of Trier were built in this way. There are much more churches with three aisled than with two aisles. Two columns, a round one and an octagonal one. There are three nave bays and seven closers with symbols or writing.
7. **Choir-in-the-tower-church:** The choir with the altar is in the tower. This is a characteristic of our region, but you find it not just here. The organ is in the choir as a part of the altar.
8. **Architectural style:** Gothic, late Gothic. A hall church.
9. **Altar:** A cabinet. Two doors. Four paintings.
 - a. **Mary and Elisabeth,** Mary visits Elisabeth. Mary is pregnant with Jesus, Elisabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist.
 - b. **Ascension to heaven of Mary:** You can see the God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as a dove.
 - c. **Presentation of Mary at the Temple in Jerusalem.** A legend of Mary from the 3rd century. You see Mary as a girl, Anna, the High Priest. The temple looks like a church. The High Priest looks like a bishop – but his hat is rotated through 90 degrees.
 - d. **Holy Family:** Jesus, Mary, Anna, Joachim, Josef, Mary Salome, Mary Kleopas, six children
Some “guests”: the count Philipp of Solms-Lich, the bishop Richard of Greiffenklau, the painter Hans Döring, a person, we don’t know.
10. **Painter of the panels:** Hans Döring, an assistant of Lukas Cranach in Wittenberg. He became the court painter of Philipp of Solms-Lich. He lived in Wetzlar and he worked in this area.
11. **Statues:**
 - a. In the middle: Mary and Jesus. A Madonna on the crescent. Light is around her a aureole. The blue night sky is behind her. There are yellow stars.
 - b. Nikolaus of Myra with the book, the three goldenen balls.
 - c. James. He is on the way to Santiago de Compostella. A pilgrim mussel (scallop) is on his hat.
12. **Artist/whittler of the statues:** We don’t know the whittler. It’s not Tilman Riemenschneider from Würzburg and it’s not Hans Backofen from Mainz.
13. **Pulpit:** 1568. Three names on it: Hans Kaufmann, Hans Solms, Petez Baniezt (?) and VDMIAE: The word of God remains in eternity.
14. **Gallery:** 1608. Paintings of the apostles. We don’t know the painter.
15. **Renovations:** 1748, 1895, 1953-1955 und 1996-1997. The painting oft he walls is Neo-Gothic. This is he painting, which was painted in 1895. Renewed in 1996.
16. **Organ:** In 1752 the first organ came into the church.

Kontakt:

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