



Gressow Church - Small church guide to take away

The village church is a high Gothic brick building supported by stepped buttresses with a polygonal chancel end from the middle of the 14th century and a three-bay nave with three uniform chapel boxes on the south side from the first half of the 15th century.

Construction of the square west tower began in the second half of the same century and ended around 1700 with the completion of the upper storey with its peculiar tapering and eight-sided spire.

A two-storey extension was added on the north side.

The interior is spanned by a depressed ribbed vault.

The magnificent baroque altar is the work of J. F. Wilde and was created in 1718. Two-storey architectural structure without predella, there is a scripture panel, the central section is a painting of the Last Supper and the coats of arms of Plessen and Bülow, each flanked by a pair of open columns, between the columns are fully sculpted figures of Moses (left) and Aaron (right), on the outside the evangelists Matthew (left) and Mark (right) in front of arcanthus carvings and angel wings. Two putti with tools (lance, ladder) seated on the cornice, in the upper part a sculptural crucifix in front of a painting of the Descent from the Cross, flanked by implied columns, arcanthus carving, on the edge the Evangelists Luke (l.) and John (r.), in the crowning the triumphant Christ on a gloriole held by two allegorical figures.

The organ (Winzer) dates from 1867 and was restored and completed in 2019.

The rich furnishings include two epitaphs (1623, v.Plessen/v.Wenckstein and 1603-16??, v.Plessen and a pulpit with staircase and sounding board (1703).

In 1988, a memorial chapel was built for Count von der Schulenburg from Tressow, which was fitted with a stained glass window made by Tisa v.d. Schulenburg (his younger sister, initially an artist, later a nun in Drosten).

Various memorial plaques commemorate the numerous wars of the past, and a memorial book refers to the fallen of the Second World War. Two bells hang in the tower, the large bell was recast in 1771.

The historic one-hand clock (17th century) was restored in 2021.

The church is surrounded by a large cemetery. The cemetery also contains graves of fallen or killed people from the May days of 1945.

A brief history:

Gressow was founded in Slavic times.

Donation of the village by Henry the Lion to Bishop Evermond of Ratzeburg in 1158 - at the same time as the first mention of today's metropolis of Munich.

Reformation:

In 1524, Thomas Aderpul, the first Lutheran preacher of his kind in the Klützer Winkel, came to Gressow. He preached in (Low) German, was married and was not only a thorn in the side of Bishop Georg von Blumenthal in Ratzeburg.

Legend tells that Thomas Aderpul admonished the knight von Plessen (Tressow) present during the service: He did not want to take the path of the Word of God, but only did not want to pay his debt to the Catholic bishop...

3rd Reich

The country residence of the von der Schulenburg family was the manor house in Tressow.

The father and 4 sons were supporters of Adolf Hitler. They all die during the war, from illness or at the front.

Fritz-Dietlof becomes Reich President in Silesia and turned his back on Hitler during this time. He was a member of Count Stauffenberg's group and lost his life on July 20, 44 along with the other assassins.

His younger sister Tisa was an artist, married twice and later joined a convent as a nun. She created the works in her brother's memorial chapel and the two stained glass windows with biblical motifs.

Current:

The parish belongs to the Mecklenburg church district within the North Church. It comprises 16 villages and two churches (Gressow and Friedrichshagen).

It has not had its own pastor since 2005. Lay people and volunteers organize Sunday services and parish life during the week.

From 2025, there is to be a pastor again - together with the neighboring parish of Proseken-Hohenkirchen.

More information at www.kirche-gressow-friedrichshagen.de

