WELCOME TO

KITEE

STONE CHURCH



KESKI-KARJALAN SEURAKUNTA

Pokentie 8, 82500 KITEE

www.keskikarjalanseurakunta.fi

KITEE AND THE EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN PARISH OF KITEE

Kitee is one of the oldest populated areas in Nort Karelia. As early as in the 15th century the people were obliged to pay taxes, in the shape of squirrel and marten skins, to the archbishop of Novgorod. In the 16th century Kitee was a dependend parish of Sortavala, and the Orthodox church was situated in the area of the present centre, in Selkue. After the peace of Stolbova (1617), Kitee being a part of the Swedish kingdom, the influence of the Lutheran church started to spread also in Kitee.

The first vicar in the Evangelical-Lutheran parish of Kitee was Yrjö Pietarinpoika. The governor-general allowed him to become the vicar in Kitee area, and on the 23rd of March 1630 he was nominated for the post by the cathedral chapter. Kesälahti parish joined to Kitee parish 1st, January 2013. Rääkkylä parish joined to Kitee parish 1st, January 2017. There are about 8 700 members in Kitee parish.

THE CHURCHES

In 1642, an order was given to build the first Lutheran church in Suorlahti, near Lake Orivesi. The church was burned only after 15 years, as well as the Orthodox church, due to the disagreements between people.

In the beginning of the 1670´s the second church was built on the place of the present church. During the periods of Lesser Hate and Great Hate this church was badly ruined.

The third churchwasbuiltin1761anditwas called Ulrika Elenora´s church. Thealtarpiece,presentingSaviour´s coming to the judgement, was paintedbyMikaelToppelius.Thechurch burned at Midsummer in 1876 due tocarelesshandlingoffire.After this, a temporary wooden church wasusedforservices.Atthesame time, the present church, designed byarchitectF.Sjöström,wasbeing built. This church was completedin1886,anditwasconsecrated at Epiphany in 1887.

But in thesameyear,onthe16thofSeptember 1887, there was a fire in the church.Thewoodenpartsofthechurch burned due to the repairs oftheroof.Thechurchwasnotinsured, but the members of the parishmadebigsacrifcesandthechurch was rebuilt and consecratedonthe28thofSeptember1890. The church was renovated in 1968 and 1991.

The churchhasroomfor1500people.The altarpiece in painted by Berndt ErikLagerstam,presentingtheHoly Communion. It is a reproductionofLeonardodaVinci´spainting. The organ is made by Kangasala organ factory in Finland.

A few timesayearthechurchisfullofpeople. On each Sunday there are on the averageabout80peopleinthe service. All people, as well groups as individuals,arewelcometoour church.



You can remember
a distant fellowman
by lighting a candle.

0,50 €/candle

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