Welcome to Rääkkylä

wooden church



KESKI-KARJALAN SEURAKUNTA

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THE CHURCH IN RÄÄKKYLÄ

Ourpresent church datesback to theyear 1851. It was designed by an architect called Mr Lohrmann and built by a churchbuilder called Mr Tolppo. This is the fifth church in order,as fires have destroyed three earlier ones.

The dependent parish had a church of its own as early as the 17th century, somewhere near the present communalhouse. During a period of history called "The Big Hatred" the enemy treated the church so ruthlessly that it couldn't be used anymore.

The first church burnt down in 1765. The second church was built in a village called Oravilahti, which lies 6 km from the centre of Rääkkylä. The church was completed in 1739 and burnt down in 1793. While the church in Oravilahti was still in use in 1759, they raised the idea of building a new church. Selecting the site was a matter of dispute. Some people wanted it to be built in the centre and others wanted it to stay in Oravilahti.

The third church was built here in 1793. lt was designed by Mr Henrik Häger. This cruciform church with its gallery,burnt down on 23th July 1837 right after a church service. As a substitute for the burnt church, they decided to build a room big enough as a temporary serviceroom. Thistemporary church was used until the year 1851, when our present chtirch was completed.

Our beautiful cruciform church has built of timber brought from a village called Pyssysalo, the window glass was brought from Sortavala (what is now Russia) and the tin roof from St.
Petersburg. The cock on top of the roof is unique in the whole of Eastern Finland. lt acts as a symbol of spiritual supervision.

The church was last painted on the outside in 2022. A copper roof was fixed on the church in 1984. The altarpiece was painted by an artist from Eno, called Mr E.J.Härkönen, in 1929.The organ was built in the organ factory of Kangasala in 1976. The facade is by Mr Albanus Jurva from the year 1899. The church can hold 1200 people at once.

The home church is of great importance to the people in Rääkkylä. As an expression of that, both private people and different organizations have taken measures and given donations to embellish the church; for example, various spieces of silverware for the altar, the bridal carpet and the amplifiers. The chandelier of candles, that is situated above the altar, has been donated by our friendship county Rättvikin Sweden.

There are 200 soldiers graves in the churchyard behind the church.

I REJOICED WITH THOSE,\WHO SAID TO ME "LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD".



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-For a good life in our towns!-