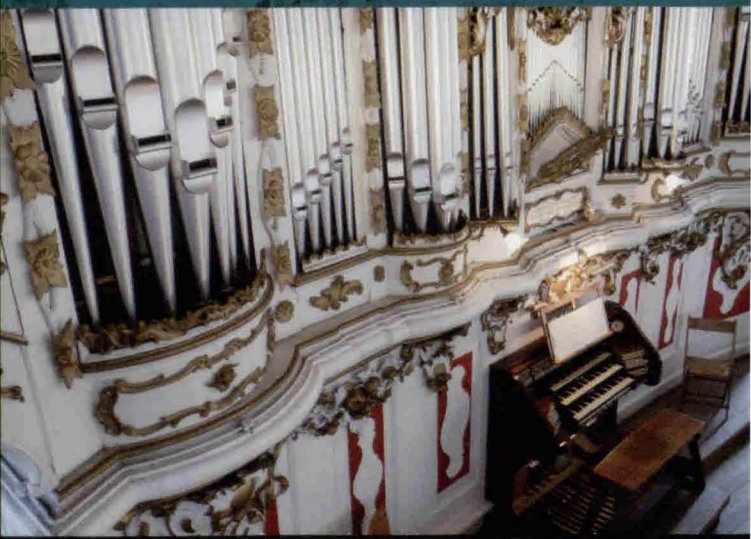
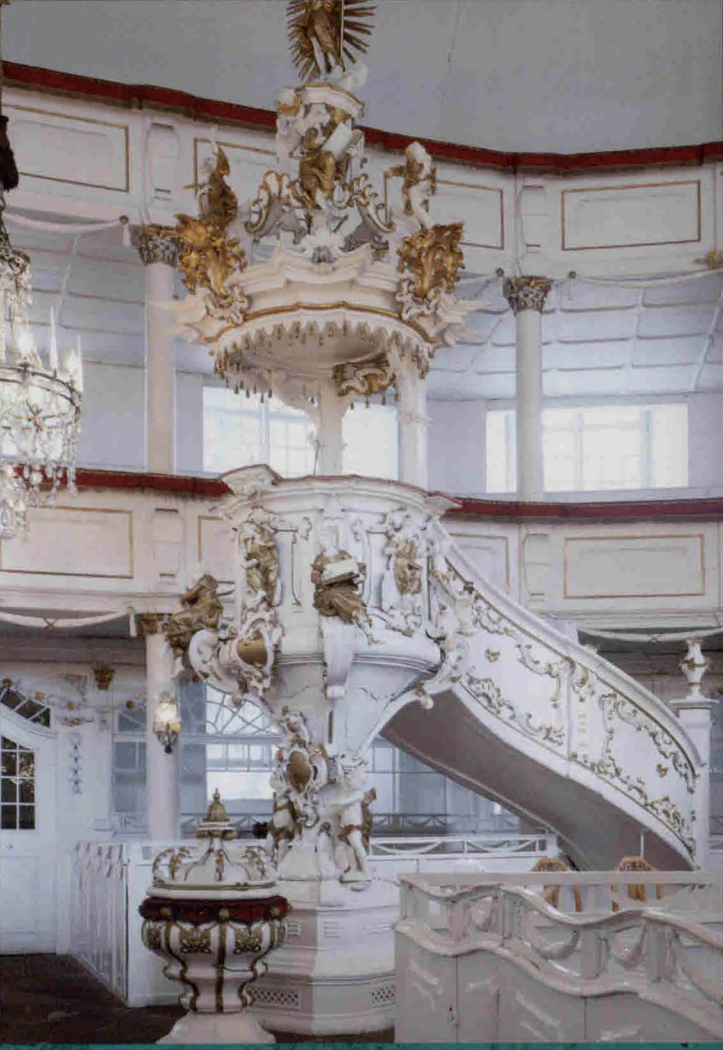
Evangelical CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR

The Church of the Savior in Cieplice is the second Lutheran church built on the same spot. In December 1741 the local Lutherans sent their regional representative with a request for the Prussian King, Frederick II von Hohenzollern, who was staying in Wroclaw at that time, for permission to build a new church in their hometown. As a result of their efforts, they were twice given permission by the King; first on December 29th, 1741, and then again on January 4th, 1742. A wooden house of prayer (Bethaus) was built in less than two winter months (between January 20th and March 15th, 1742) on a dedicated site in the former garden of Friedrich Lucas. Surrounded by a wall with four gates, the old wooden church stood together with the adjacent parish house, a school building, and they also established a cemetery here. The first pastor of the Lutheran parish (from 1742 to 1747) was Adam Gottfried Thebesius.



As the wealth of the parish congregation increased, they collectively decided to build a new, grander church. Construction, by the architect and master mason Demus from Jelenia Góra, and carpenter Bredow, also from Jelenia Góra, took three years (from 1774 to the ceremonial consecration which took place on Reformation Day, the 31st of October, 1777).

This church has become one of the most significant pieces of architecture in Silesia. It is an interesting work of art built during the period when the popularity of the Baroque style was fading away, the neoclassical movement was gaining recognition, and artists were discovering the delights of the subtle art of Rococo. The church is a fascinating mix of architectural styles; Baroque, Neoclassicism, and the vitality of Rococo detailing.

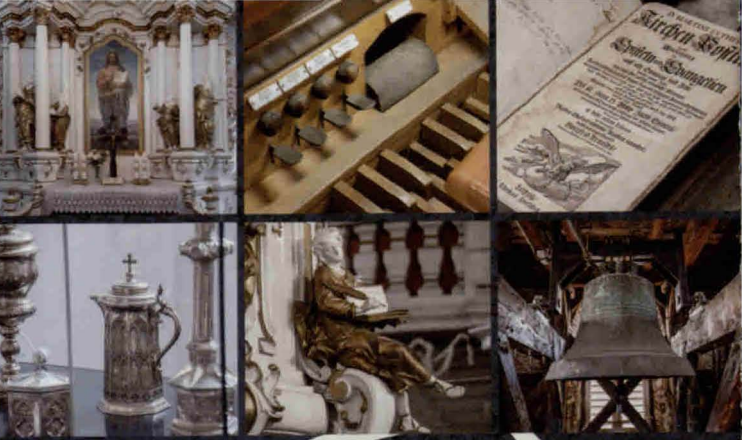


Above the altar, which is crowned by a scene of the ascension of Christ surrounded by angels, is an expansive pipe organ. In 1794, a new polychrome was applied to the organ which presumably included the coat of arms of Johann Nepomuk Gotthard von Schaffgotsch, who as a patron of the church, and the owner of Cieplice, funded this work.

The pulpit is decorated with bas-reliefs depicting the Evangelists and a group of Resurrectionists. The baptismal font is from the original wooden church and dates back to 1742.

The Church of the Savior is a massive structure in an elliptical shape whose longitudinal walls are accented with three-sided niches. On the west side is a three-storey square tower which is crowned by an octagonal cupola. The interior is dominated by two floors of galleries supported by pillars, topped with modest decorative woodcarvings. The furnishings of the church, mainly in the Rococo-Classicist style, consist of an architecturally enhanced altar, pipe organ, pulpit, and baptismal font.

The altar is decorated with statues of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Mary, and John the Evangelist. Originally a crucifix hung in the center (today it hangs over the entrance to the church tower), and the whole scene represented the crucifixion of Christ on the cross, at Calvary. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century however, there has been a painting in the center. The painting is of Christ on a panoramic background of the Giant Mountains, and he is holding an open bible on which you can read the following words from the Gospel of St. John: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (Ich bin der Weg, die Wahrheit und das Leben).



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