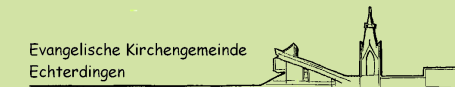


In the heart of Echterdingen, The Evangelische Stephanuskirche open for you



On the chancel wall there is an ornately carved panel in which there is a painting depicting Jesus as a friend of the children. It was donated in 1861 by Doctor Däubler in memory of his mother. The altar, with various symbolic pictures, originates from 1860-61. Originally, the south door was a sedilia niche and the sacristy was presumably a lateral chapel. The baptistry is old, undecorated and in the form of an octagonal goblet. On the stones of the chancel arch you can discover various stone masons' marks.

The Church Tower



A Latin inscription on the south front of the church tower tells us the date the foundation stone was laid: "Anno domini 1439 on the day of Saint Marcellus (16th January) the building of this tower was started." Next to it you find a German inscription: „A tower am I, doth Master Hainrich builds.“ In the same place there are heraldic shields; the one on the left is of the Cistercian order of the Bebenhausen monastery and the other on the right is the crest of the Counts of Württemberg. In addition, there is a stone mason's mark, two crossed pick hammers, with a shield on top showing a sickle. The church tower is not accessible from the outside; you can only enter from the gallery. Originally, the tower was built with three floors made of stone and a fourth made of timber. The neo-Gothic church steeple was erected sometime between 1880 - 1888. The church to-

wer stands at a height of 54 meters, 173 steps lead up to the viewing platform.

The Churchyard

Up until the 19th century the church was surrounded by a graveyard and enclosed within high walls. To the south you still find the parish-"Wette", a pond, which was used as a fire pond and perhaps also a cattle drinking trough. To the north, it's believed the grave of the most important parson from Echterdingen, Philipp Matthäus Hahn, who died May 2, 1790 at the age of 51. Opposite the church, you find a memorial plaque on the vicarage wall. The sundial on the southeast exterior wall dates back to Hahn. It was restored by the geometrician Wilhelm Nißler.

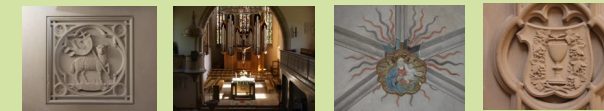
On the south front – where today you see the World War I memorial – there used to be a picture of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Organ

In the chancel, which after the Reformation no longer served for liturgical purposes, the original organ was installed in 1603. The present 3-manual organ with 46 stops was consecrated in January 1985. This organ is the last major work of the Echterdingen organ manufacturer "Weigle" which was established for nearly a hundred years (until 1987). Weigle organs have been used in our church since 1848.

This exceptional organ rightly has its place here; Echterdingen being the chair of the district cantorate Bernhausen actively supports and cultivates church music in the region.

English Translation: Nora Krehl von Mühlendahl,
Janet Schroeder, Stefanie & Michael George



See &
discover

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Welcome

Welcome to the Stephanuskirche. We are delighted you have chosen to visit our church. This small guide provides you with some interesting facts from our church's history.

Most of all we hope you find here a place for quiet contemplation and joy of faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Submit to Him and feel your spirits rise. Here in God's house, God shows us His love through Jesus Christ.

***God Himself is with us:
Let us now adore Him,
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple,
all within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone God we own,
Him our God and Savior;
Praise His Name forever.***

***O Thou fount of blessing,
purify my spirit;
Trusting only in Thy merit,
Like the holy angels
who behold Thy glory,
May I ceaselessly adore Thee,
And in all, great and small,
seek to do most nearly
What Thou lovest dearly.***

The Revd Burkhard Neudorfer

See & Discover

The Church

This church was first mentioned in the chronics of Sindelfingen in 1185; it was donated by the Counts of Calw, then passed on via The House of Welfes, The House of Hohenstaufen, The Counts of Tübingen, and then to The Bebenhausen Abbey in 1286/1296. After the reformation in 1534 The Duchy of Württemberg became the owner. In



this place, next to the castle of the local nobility, previously stood a church building; most likely a wooden timber frame building.

In 2001 the church was named Stephanuskirche; in remembrance of a Stephanus-benefice and a side-altar dedicated to Stephanus which stood in this church before the reformation.

Stephanus was the first known follower of Jesus, who became a martyr.

In 2007 Echterdinger artist Gerhard Tagwerker created a relief with scenes from the life of Stephanus.

Previous patrons of the church were St. Mary and St. Catherine.



The Nave

Though we do not know when the church was built, the nave, the oldest part of the building, is a Romanesque rectangular hall.



On the north front you can still see; an arched corbel-table Romanesque frieze, a window and a Romanesque door. In the course of time bigger (Gothic) windows were installed to improve natural lighting for the church, including the window to the right of the pulpit. The gentlemen's gallery was built in 1603 and three more windows were added in 1769.

1775 was the year of substantial structural alterations to the main structure. The old wooden ceiling, supported by three oak columns, was replaced by a suspended plaster ceiling, cutting into the apex of the chancel arch. In addition, two new doors, two more windows and new pews were incorporated. From between 1963–65 the original exterior stairs were removed and a Gothic tracery was built into several windows on the south front.

The Chancel

The late-Gothic choir was built between 1508–10 out of stones reclaimed from the Echterdingen castle. The tracery vault is being supported by ten male half-busts, presumably representing evangelists and prophets. The capstones of the vault (on the far east side) are depicting The Blessed Mother Mary with Child, Saint Catherine (with sword and spiked broken wheel) and Saint Barbara (with tower and book). The chancel windows, the risen Christ and scenes from the Passion Christi, were created by father and son Kohler.

