HEILIGGEIST
HEIDELBERG

Fotos: Dr. Manfred Schneider

Heiliggeist

for Kids

heiliggeist-heidelberg.de

Heiliggeist for Kids

Heiliggeist, the Church of the Holy Spirit, is placed in the middle of the main street. For the people of the Middle Ages this was the most important building in town. Many houses were made from wood. The church though is made from stone and is very old, to be exact over 620 years old.

The market stalls on the outside of the church have always been there. Back then it was a special honour to have a shop here. On the side facing the main street there are pretzels carved into the stone. They indicate the size a pretzel had to be in a certain year. If they were smaller you could have had the police arrest the baker. Have a look if you can find any of the carvings.

Enter the church. Now you are right in the middle of a huge room. This is the nave. You can see the illuminated chancel from here. That is were you find the altar, the baptismal font, and the pulpit at the pillar to the left.

Upstairs you can see the balconies. They are called gallery. Valuable books and handwritten texts from the univesity were kept there. In this church they did not just hold service, they also studied! The books are now in Rom, ever since they were stolen in the Thirty Year War.

The church was also a cemetery. On the left you can discover the grave stone of King Ruprecht and his wife Queen Elisabeth. He built this church.

On the stairs to the chancel once stood a wall. It divided the church into a catholic and a protestant part. Go look for the picture of Hermann Maas. He had the wall torn down.

The foto on the front of this flyer is of a painting in the cancel. It shows you the coat of arms of the knight society „Zum oberen Esel" which means „To the upper donkey". Look for the painting!

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