



1. Windows

During the renovation work in 1913–1916, the cathedral’s windows were fitted with stained glass by the Stockholm-based glass studio Neumann & Vogel, and six of them also featured biblical texts.

In the cathedral’s porch is the Window of Creation, created in 1998 by Kerstin Munter for Madam Glas. The scene is from Genesis 1:31 and tells the story of creation.

2. Pulpit

The pulpit was part of the redesign of the chancel carried out in 1792–1794 by architect Erik Palmstedt. Inside the canopy of the pulpit is the dove of the Holy Spirit, and on the pulpit itself are the Ten Commandments and the cross, symbolizing the Old and New Testaments, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The candelabra on the pulpit was donated to the

cathedral by Palmstedt on the occasion of his son Carl’s birth.

3. Main altar

In the 1960s, the interior of the church was redesigned by architect Kurt von Schmalensee. The high altar was moved one arch back into the church, and a new communion table made of limestone from Gotland was placed in the center. People became more involved, the cathedral let in more light, and church service became more vibrant.

4. Baptismal fonts

The baptismal font on the north side of the chancel is made of granite and glass from Reijmyre Glasbruk and was designed by Kurt von Schmalensee. The baptismal font at the high altar was designed by art teacher K. Hugo Segerborg and built in 1906. The pedestal of the baptismal font in the glass display case dates from the 1790s.

5. Bishop’s pew and the cathedra

After the coup in 1772, Gustav III sought to quell any unrest in the country by embarking on a tour of Sweden. The judge’s chair of the city’s late mayor, depicting Justitia, was then donated to the cathedral and became the king’s throne. Eventually, Gustav III’s architect Erik Palmstedt was commissioned to redesign the chancel with the assistance of, among others, the sculptors Tobias Sergel and Jean Baptiste Masreliez.

The cathedra remained unused for a long time, as a bishop’s pew had been donated by Bishop Herman Schröderheim in the 1790s. The bishop’s pew was designed by Erik Palmstedt.

6. The Tree of Light

The cathedral’s Tree of Light was created by metal artist Örjan Holm in 1998. It is a wrought-iron

olive tree holding 137 candles, one for each parish in the Diocese of Karlstad at the time in 1998.

At the heart of the display burns a large candle, the Light of Christ. It symbolizes the light that shines in the dark which darkness has no power over.

7. The Chapel of the Revelation

The triptych, the three-panel altarpiece, was painted by Kjellaug Nordsjö. The motifs depict scenes from the Gospels of the New Testament, painted in the Orthodox tradition. The images are called icons. In the center, we see the risen Jesus enclosed in a large halo, known as a mandorla, with the archangels Gabriel and Michael on either side. The Jesus Prayer is inscribed on the altar table: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me. The Chapel of the Apparition was built in 1998.

8. Angels

There are many angels in both the Old and New Testaments, and just as many to discover inside the church. The sculptor and painter Tobias Sergel created the two large angel figures in the chancel.

9. Church ships

The two church ships donated to the cathedral in 2000 are based on real models. Church ships symbolize the Christian congregation and the church, with Jesus as their captain. With the cross as its mast and the congregation as its crew, the ship symbolizes a safe journey through life. A church ship is always sailing to the east. The models were made by model builder Bertil Stridsberg.

10. Crosses

The chancel’s large, empty golden cross symbolizes resurrection, life, and victory. At the top,

you can see the crown of thorns and the inscription stating the crime committed by the crucified person. The shroud hangs from the cross, and at its base are the three nails.

The small cross at the main altar, made of silver-plated steel and Orrefors crystal, was created by Jan Brazda based on a sketch by Kurt von Schmalensee.

Instruments

The gallery organ has five manuals, 66 stops, and 4,569 sounding pipes. The organ was restored in 2011 by Grönlunds Orgelbyggeri, but the facade dates back to the 1879 organ built by Åkerman & Lund.

The 14-stop, two-manual chancel organ was built by Grönlunds Orgelbyggeri in 1968. The church also houses a Klop chest organ, a Steinway grand piano, and a Sassman harp-sichord.

Church bells

The church tower houses three bells cast in 1866 and 1913. There is also a carillon here, installed in 1990, which plays a hymn four times a day. The hymns are changed periodically and follow the liturgical calendar.



Tympanum relief

The tympanum relief in the porch, depicting the theme of Christ in human history, was installed during the renovation in 1967–1968.

In the center is a large Christogram, and surrounding it are 33 smaller symbolic images, all of which reflect Christ in human history in various ways.

The symbols were created by the artist, designer, and silver-smith Heinz Decker.

What is a *cathedral*?

The Swedish word for cathedral, domkyrka roughly means 'house of God'. It comes from two languages. The word dom comes from the Latin Domus Dei, and the word kyrka is Greek and also means 'house of God'.

The word cathedral refers to the bishop's cathedra, the seat

of their office. The chair in the chancel of the cathedral serves as a symbol of the bishop's office when they are not in the church.

The terms domkyrka and katedral (cathedral) are used interchangeably in the Diocese of Karlstad.



KATEDRALEN
300-ÅR

In 2030, Karlstad Cathedral will celebrate its 300th anniversary. Various activities will take place in the years leading up to that occasion. Learn more on our website:

svenskakyrkan.se/karlstad/katedral300



Svenska kyrkan

The history of the *cathedral*

Tingvalla was the name of the old court and market town where Duke Karl founded Värmland's first city, Karlstad, in 1584. The Duke established a new diocese in Mariestad, but the diocesan seat was moved to Karlstad by Queen Kristina in 1647. The Diocese of Karlstad was established, and the parish church in Karlstad became the cathedral.

Like many other wooden towns, Karlstad has been ravaged by fires in the past. After the fire in 1616, the church was rebuilt on the same location along the Klarälven River, where a church had likely stood since the 13th century. However, after the city fire of 1719, a decision was made to relocate the cathedral to Lagberget, a small hill where Duke Karl – later King Karl IX – had his royal estate.

The new cathedral was built in the shape of a Greek cross in the style of Jean de la Vallée, modeled after Kungsholm Church in Stockholm. The cathedral was consecrated on 2 July, 1730. Just seven years later, the church's west transept was extended when the tower was built. That is why the numbers 1737 are inscribed on the tower's west facade. The master mason for the cathedral was Christian Haller, and the practical and financial aspects of the construction were handled by the cathedral steward Johannes Hasselström. When it was consecrated in 1730, the cathedral was named Fredrik's Church after King Fredrik I who was on the throne at the time.

In 1772, Gustav III carried out a bloodless coup in Sweden and then embarked on a tour of the country. In November, he arrived in Karlstad where his former religious teacher and confirmation pastor

Georg Schröder was serving as superintendent. That same year, the title of superintendent was replaced by that of bishop. The current bishop of the Diocese of Karlstad is Sören Dalevi.

Gustav eventually signed the document that gave the cathedral's chancel its current neoclassical appearance, and the architect behind the redesign was Erik Palmstedt.

In 1865, Karlstad was once again struck by a city fire. The cathedral was one of the few buildings to survive the fire, but the roof and parts of the bell tower collapsed, and it wasn't until the restoration in 1913–1916 that the cathedral was fully restored.

During the redesign in 1967–1968 led by architect Kurt von Schmalensee, Palmstedt's chancel wall was moved one arch to the east. The large main altar was constructed and placed near the congregation.

In 1997–1998, the Tree of Light was added to the north transept and the Chapel of the Epiphany to the south transept.



You can find more information about the cathedral's artifacts on the website: svenskakyrkan.se/karlstad/om-domkyrkan



Karlstad *Cathedral*