

From history

Various construction phases have left their mark.
The von Voß family has long shaped Groß Gievitze.



At the beginning of the 13th century, the land of Waren, also called Land Schloen or in Slavic "terra slone," was still very sparsely populated by Slavic Wends. Gradually German immigrants came to Groß Gievitze. was founded by Westphalian knights and farmers The first parishes were established around 1230.

At this time, construction of the church in Groß Gievitze also began. First, the choir (altar area) and nave were completed, then the interior walls were painted in fresco technique.

The tower was built in a second phase, which coincided with a second painting of the church. The windows were enlarged over the centuries to let in more light. Only one remains today in its original, slender form. The oldest surviving feudal charter for

a knight Voß dates back to 1332. This fa- family shaped the history of the village of Gievitze for centuries.



1 Coat of arms of the Counts of Voss and the von Berg family on the patron saint's pew. Here, as in the coat of arms of Groß Gievitze, a red fox can be seen.

2 crucifixion scene and one with mask
Vaulted console

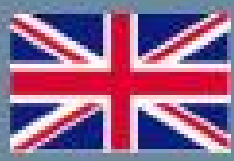
In the curve of the arch on the north side of the choir, a saint can be seen, whose attribute is no longer recognizable. It could be This could be the Apostle Peter, since the church was probably originally dedicated to him. Below the wall painting, which probably dates from the second painting phase of the church, there is a lily-framed

Rectangle. When stones were removed from this spot during the renovation of the church in 1964, a round hollow was discovered that probably once housed a relic.

On the north wall of the church hangs a copy of the painting "Mary under the Apple Tree" by Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472 – 1553). The original was probably acquired around 1700 by church patron Ernst Christoph von Voß and has hung in the church ever since. It is a mixed media work on linden wood.

The painting bears the typical Cranach snake as a signature with the year 1526. In 1944, Pastor Heinz Büchner the original painting, which had since become infested with woodworm, to Berlin. There it was exhibited in the Kaiser Friedrich Museum (today Bode Museum) was restored. It was never returned to Groß Gievitze. back. Today it is located in Güstrow Castle.

General history



The stone church in Groß Gievitze was built in the 13th century. Its me-dieval wall paintings, which were extensively restored in the 1960s, also date from that period. There is evidence that the church was originally dedicated to Saint Peter. The aristocratic von Voß family, who held the right of patronage for centuries, had a major influence on its restora-tion and interior design. It was Count Ernst Christoph von Voß who acquired the painting The Virgin under the Apple Tree by Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472 – 1553) in around 1700. The original is now in Güstrow Palace near Rostock.



Did you know?

In the corners of the church there are four human Figures that decorate supporting structural elements ("console figures"). These are two male and two female figures. They most likely represent the four elements: fire, earth, air, and water.

Behind the pulpit you can see Ignis ("fire", male), all in red. Opposite it, and in opposition, is Aqua ("water," feminine). Terra ("earth," feminine) is located near the entrance door, and on the opposite side is Aer ("air," masculine).

Can you find them all?

