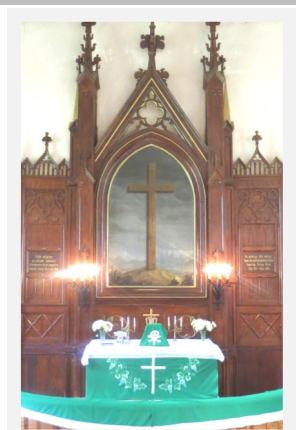
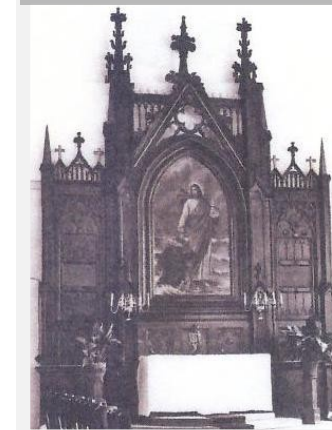


### Facts about Vecauce church

- ◆ Wooden church was built in 1667
- ◆ In 1729 the tower was struck by lightning and the church burned down
- ◆ A stone church was built in 1744
- ◆ During the reign of Medam family in 1866 the church was enlarged to 500 seats, made a new altar, pulpit and installed the organ built by Kārlis Hermanis, an organ master from Liepāja. The altar, pulpit and sacristy door is a single ensemble built in Neo-Gothic style.
- ◆ During World War I the organ was devastated, the bell was taken.
- ◆ H.Kolbe restores the organ in 1925
- ◆ The congregation is separated from the Lielaucē congregation on 27 September 1934 and the Central Board of Latvian Ev. Luth. Church approves the new Vecauce ev. luth. congregation.
- ◆ Jānis Turks, awarded with the Order of Three Stars and gold mark of Daugava Hawks, serves as a pastor from 1935 to 1944
- ◆ Renovation of the church in 1936 – the new floor is installed, the altar is restored, crucifix, altar cloths, new chairs, candlesticks.
- ◆ During World War II the organ was devastated the altarpiece "Christ and the St. Peter on the sea" disappeared. For needs of German army was removed and melted down the church bell in 1943. At first, in the church was installed a hospital, later, in 1944 a horse stable.
- ◆ Karl Roberts Kalderovskis serves as a pastor from 1945 to 1967.
- ◆ The church was arranged in 1947 so that there could be hold services. The church benches were borrowed from Dubulti church, a destroyed church bell was installed.
- ◆ From 1949 to 1959: the electric lighting was restored, the church whitewashed, the floor and roof repaired, yard girded with the fence
- ◆ From 1967 to 1986: reconstruction was continued and a slate roof on the donation of Mrs Mirdza Kangare – Matule was put under the guidance of Pastor Jānis Ozols

- ◆ Armands Akmentiņš serves as a pastor from 1986 to 1989
- ◆ Juris Saivars serves as a pastor from 1989 to 1995
- ◆ In the nineties starts the large church renovation - spread concrete slab middle aisle of the church, installed a new floor under the benches and the altar and around the altar, made new benches, installed a new ceiling chandelier, the path outside the church lined with concrete slabs, improved electrical wiring, painted the interior and exterior of the church, installed central heating.
- ◆ Dainis Grigors serves as a pastor in 1995 and 1996
- ◆ Anatolijs Sviķis serves as the Evangelist in 1996 and 1997
- ◆ Jānis Roga serves as a pastor from 1997 to 2000
- ◆ A restored rooster was lifted in church tower in 1999, the tower roof restored, but in 2000 under the guidance of the Congregation-Chief Arvīds Latišs the church roof covering was replaced with tin, thanks to Nusse and Belendorf, Germany parishioners collected donations for the church.
- ◆ Valdis Bercs serves as a pastor from 2000 to 2012. There were started under his leadership a serious renovation of church. The tower was renovated in 2006. Damaged wooden structures were replaced. The tower was plastered and applied in a gutter in 2007. The joists were partially replaced and reinforced in 2008.
- ◆ Disassembled organ was brought from Germany in November 2013, which we received as a gift from Neuwied town congregation and pastor. The money necessary for disassembling and transport was donated by Gustav Adolf Werke, Germany.
- ◆ From January to July 2014 M. Dzenītis and V. Ilsums installed the organ. Finance for organ installation was received from Zemgale Culture Programme supported by the Latvian State Forest, Auces municipality, residents and donations from sister churches in Norway Rygge and Egholt. Fellowship with these sister congregations has lasted 20 years.

- ◆ Jānis Ginters serves as a pastor since 2012
- ◆ Services are held every Sunday at 11:00
- ◆ Organist Ingrīga Petrauska serves in Vecauces church since 1988
- ◆ Under leadership of congregation leader M. Druva and previous pastor V. Bercs beams and ceiling restoration continues
- ◆ I.Kurpniece and D.Krūzmane lead the Church Sunday school
- ◆ Head of diaconia is Laima Strazdiņa.



## Sacred music concerts



- ◆ Sacred music concerts become a tradition of both Auce Festival and Advent.
- ◆ Consecration of the organ on 14 September 2014
- ◆ The newly acquired organ offers great opportunities for concert activities.
- ◆ The 80th anniversary of congregation is on 27 September 2014.



## For visitors and tourists

- ◆ From June to August Vecauce church is open for visitors on Saturdays from 12:00 to 18:00 and Sundays from 10:00 to 17:00.
- ◆ Visitors can enjoy the Auce panorama from the church tower; exhibition "Auce during the first period of Latvian independence", the church library and the Church Record Book (the first period of Latvian independence is period from 1919 to 1940, during the German occupation, the Soviet times and today); the grave site of Vecauce castle owner count Medem and his family; as well as narration of the church's history and today.
- ◆ Saturday concerts on the garden open-air stage at 4 p.m. (in case of rain in the church).
- ◆ At other times a visit of church by prior appointment with the chief of the congregation M.Druva by phone 28849204



## Vecauce Evangelical Lutheran Church from the 17th to the 21st

### At the beginning of the 20th century...



### At the beginning of the 21st century and today

