

Berlin Church Pulpit with Nazi Carvings (1933)

Abstract

After 1933, the German Christians and similar groups tried to integrate Nazi ideology into the Protestant Church. One way to achieve this was to combine traditional Christian imagery with new Nazi iconography. This photograph of a wood carving on the pulpit of Berlin's Martin-Luther-Gedächtniskirche [Martin Luther Memorial Church] depicts Christ preaching to a small group of men, women, and children. Among Christ's listeners, one figure looms large: the man standing directly behind him, whose dress and helmet identify him as a Wehrmacht soldier. In addition to the pulpit, other parts of the church incorporated Nazi imagery as well: an elaborate oak carving of an SA man adorned the baptismal font, while an Iron Cross figured prominently in the church's chandelier. On the whole, the church interior illustrated the German Christians' interest in establishing a *Volkskirche*—a politicized church that served the aims of the nation.

Source



Source: Photo: D. Crossland. picture-alliance

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