

## **“Tsjerke oan it Dok” en de Lemster Toer**

(Church by the canal and the tower of Lemmer)

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This church building is the fourth church built on this site. There is already mention of a church in the 13th century.

May 15, 1716 the first stone was laid by Nanne Aenes a timber merchant. The church was built as a single-aisled nave, with an entrance on three sides. It was enlarged in 1759 with an attached transept on the north side. The vestry was built against the south side in 1870.

The church space is covered by a wooden barrel vault. During the restoration in 1984, the original painting was uncovered. On a blue-green background, the constellations of the Big Dipper, Orion and the Pleiades and images of the sun and the moon have been applied with gold leaf. Furthermore, clouds and birds are painted.

The baroque pulpit was made in the years 1743 to 1745 by Gerben Jelles Nauta. We see the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Four bible stories: The Man with the Withered Hand, The Stoning of Stephen, The Young Man of Nain, The Raising of Lazarus. 6 female figures, each holding a symbolic object: heart, wreath, book, bit, yoke, cornucopia. The front panel tells the whole gospel!

The organ was built in 1842 by Dirk Sjoerds Ypma. The old church floor consists of more than 40 gravestones and also Bentheimer tiles.

The beautifully carved, stained elm wood chairs are almost 200 years old. The imitation oak painted benches date from 1870. The three chandeliers were made in 1736 by Hermanus van Geest from Lemmer. The baptismal font and communion table were made in 1959.

The clock from 1598 was removed from the tower in 1943. In 1949 a new clock was installed. The clockwork from 1654 was replaced in 1984 by an electric timepiece with an automatically playing carillon consisting of 18 bells.

The old clockwork was completely restored and now stands in the porch of the church.

In 1798, during the time of Napoleon, the tower came into ~~the~~ possession of the bourgeoisie. A nice watch-tower and a beacon for ships on the Zuiderzee.

Above the entrance to the tower a sculpted relief was made in 1955 in memory of the war victims in Lemmer.

**After more than 300 years, this church is still a meeting place, where people sing, pray, baptize, celebrate the Lord’s Supper, read the Bible and find peace.**