

# Westerland, Sylt, St. Niels

Dorfkirche Sankt Niels, Kirchenweg 37, 25980 Westerland, Sylt, Germany



|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Builder</b>      | E. Kemper          |
| <b>Year</b>         | ca. 1966           |
| <b>Period/Style</b> | Neo-Baroque        |
| <b>Stops</b>        | 14                 |
| <b>Keyboards</b>    | 2+P                |
| <b>Keyaction</b>    | tracker/mechanical |

## Description

The Church of St. Niels in Westerland on Sylt, known as the oldest building in Westerland since its consecration in 1637, serves as a profound historical and spiritual center. Built on the site of the old village of Eidum, which was abandoned 200 years prior, the church has been a beacon of faith and community since its establishment. The addition of its church tower in 1875 marked a significant architectural enhancement to this historical structure.

St. Niels houses several notable art pieces, mostly relics from its predecessor. Among these treasures, a Passion crucifix from the 13th or 14th century and a Christ figure from the late 15th century stand out as the oldest items. The church also features a late Gothic triptych altar, which, after a period of removal due to Lutheran reforms, was restored to its original glory with a central Marienkrönung flanked by bishops. The church's interior is further adorned with an impressive 14-arm chandelier from 1682 and an older eight-arm brass chandelier, adding to the baroque elegance of the church.

The organ of St. Niels, crafted by Marcussen & Søn, was initially installed in the newly constructed tower in 1876 with eleven registers. In 1965/1966, the Lübeck organ-building workshop Kemper & Sohn replaced it with a two-manual organ that integrated some of the older pipe material into 14 registers housed in the original casing. Further renovations were carried out in 1987 by the Neuthor company from Kiel, during which the organ was enhanced with a Krummhorn 8' stop, replacing the Quinte 1 1/3'. This instrument, with its intricate mix of traditional and modern elements, complements the rich, historical ambiance of St. Niels, offering a deep and resonant sound that enriches the liturgical and musical offerings of the church.

## Stoplist/Disposition

| <b>I Hauptwerk</b> | <b>II Schwellwerk</b> | <b>Pedal</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Prinzipal 8'       | Gedackt 8'            | Subbass 16'  |
| Rohrflöte 8'       | Prinzipal 4'          | Prinzipal 8' |
| Flöte 4'           | Waldflöte 2'          | Prinzipal 4' |
| Oktave 2'          | Terz 1 3/5'           |              |
| Scharff III        | Sifflöte 1'           |              |
|                    | Krummhorn 8'          |              |

**Additional:** II/I, I/P, II/P, Tremulant II Schwellwerk, Swell Pedal

## Sources

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Niels\\_\(Westerland\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Niels_(Westerland))