The Hospitalkirche

The church was built together with the Hospital thanks to donations; the first pastor started in 1288, at the latest. The donators were guaranteed absolution from their sins. A church was part of every Hospitalstiftung (foundation) as the occupants were obliged to pray for the donator’s salvation. After the city fire of 1823, the church replaced the destroyed Michaeliskirche as main church of the city for a couple of years. The Hospitalkirche was also available to Hofer Catholics who did not yet have their own church when Hof became part of Bavaria in 1810. In the 19th century, the church was fully integrated into the parish of Hof and got its own community in 1947.

The Hospitalkirche was badly damaged during each the Hussite attacks in 1430, the beslegement of 1553 and the Thirty Years’ War, and newly decorated afterwards. The Marienaltar, which had been positioned in the Michaeliskirche in 1511, was moved to the Hospitalkirche in 1557, where it still is today. From 1688 on, the painter Heinrich Andreas Lohe created the church’s ceiling paintings based on motifs in the Merian Bible. After that, the galleries were painted. In 1693, the pulpit got equipped with a canopy with carvings by Johann Nikolaus Knoll. The church survived the following centuries well, which is why today it is Hof’s outstandingly beautiful, baroque jewel.