

The mass of the church was restored faithfully according to Zug's plans and drawings. Only the interior decoration was adapted to modern liturgical requirements. The new altar was raised on the marble platform with steps. The wooden crucifix carved by Józef Trenarowski was placed on the altar. The silvered, stuccoes

“screen” with liturgical emblems is in the background. Higher up on the wall, covering the interior of the previous pulpit, the 19th century painting representing Jesus Christ risen from the dead was placed. The organ (a gift from Church Aid in Zurich), earlier situated over the altar, was set up over the entrance on the second floor gallery. The

windows on both sides of the altar were decorated by stained-glass compositions designed by Prof. Adam Dobrzański and were presented to the parish by Mrs. Michalina Wedel. In the interior there are a painting by Stefan Norblin representing Martin Luther at Diet of Worms in 1521.

**Our community is the biggest Lutheran congregation in the Warsaw Diocese of the Evangelical-Augsburg (Lutheran) Church in Poland and has about 2.000 members. We worship every Sunday at 10:30 and 19:00 – the service is always with the Eucharist. We have partnership congregations in Sweden (Uppsala Cathedral Parish), The Netherlands (Lutheran Church in Amsterdam) and many contacts to our Lutheran Sisters and Brothers from Germany, Russia and other European countries.**

**Our Rector (I. Pastor) is Reverend Piotr Gaś.**



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**St. Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Stanisław Malachowski Square I  
at 10:30 a.m i 7:00 p.m. (always with the Eucharist)**

**‘Tabita’ Chappel in Konstancinie-Jeziornie,  
Długa-Street 43  
at 11:00 a.m.**

**Church in Warszawa-Włochy,  
Cietrzewia Street 22  
at 10:00 a.m.**

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**We are on:**



**St. Trinity  
Evangelical-  
Lutheran  
Church in Warsaw**



Parafia Ewangelicko-Augsburska Świętej Trójcy w Warszawie



**ENGLISH**

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ST TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WARSAW

Lutherans have been present in Warsaw and the Mazovia region since the times of the Protestant Reformation. The first attempts to set up a Lutheran congregation were made in the times of King Stefan Batory.

**Peter Artomius**, a theologian from Greater Poland, became the first ordained Lutheran minister in Warsaw. While serving Lutheran believers in Warsaw as their pastor, he also initiated the construction of a church for the local congregation. In 1581, during the King's temporary absence from Warsaw, the church building was de-

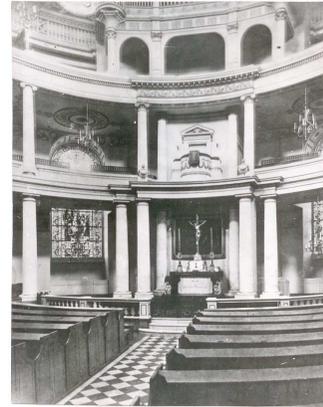


molished in the wake of a rebellion against "heretics". All Protestant believers were expelled and pastor Artomius moved to Węgrów.

Lutheran worship was prohibited in Warsaw and the Mazovia Principality and the Lutheran faithful joined the congregation in Węgrów. Services in Warsaw were held two times a year by pastors from Węgrów. A house of prayer was erected in Królewska St. thanks to the efforts of the Danish Ambassador. Lutheran worship took place there under the protection of the King of Denmark, with the first service held on 21 June 1767 by **John Jacob Scheidemantel (1734-1777)**, pastor at the Danish Embassy. In 1768 Protestants were granted the freedom of worship and in 1775 Lutherans in Warsaw set up their own congregation thus separating organizationally from the congregation in Węgrów. Revd Scheidemantel became its first pastor and the congregation was granted a royal privilege that permitted its members to erect a church.

Out of the three projects for the church building presented to him King Stanislaus August personally chose the one designed by **Simon Gottlieb Zug**.

Construction began on **24 April 1777** and the foundation stone was laid on **4 May 1778**. The congregation's senior pastor was then **Teophil Ringeltaube** with **Frederic Cerulli** serving as the associate pastor. On 2 July 1779 the cross was installed at the top of the dome and the church construction documents were deposited at its base. The official dedication of the Lutheran Holy Trinity Church took place on **30 December 1781**. A commemorative plaque with the dedication date was placed above the church main entrance on King's birthday, 17 January 1788. The church was erected on Warsaw's tallest hill which allowed officers of the Kościusko Uprising to observe the enemy's movements from its dome. It also served as a concert hall for eminent composers such as Frederic Chopin, who played eolimeledikon in the presence of Czar Alexander I in 1825.



Amongst the congregation's leaders were prominent Poles who greatly contributed to history, culture and science of our country: **Peter Tepper, Samuel Linde, Wilhelm Malcz and Wojciech Gerson**.

Starting from the 19<sup>th</sup> century the church's windows were gradually decorated with stained glass and in 1901 gas lighting was installed. A year later the church acquired its "E.F. Walker and Co." pipe organ.

The First World War seriously damaged the church. The German occupying army appropriated the bells and copper on the dome and melted it for military purposes. More stained glass was placed in windows in the interwar period and Karl Schwabe's workshop in Biala delivered new bells which first rang on 30 December 1929. The church gathered lovers of classical music. In 1825 young

**Fryderyk Chopin** gave concerts there. **Stanisław Moniuszko**, the father of Polish national opera, conducted orchestras during some of those concerts. Many significant personalities of Polish culture and science were members of this Lutheran parish, such as Samuel Bogumił Linde, the author of the Polish dictionary who was for some time the chairman of the church council and Wojciech Gerson, an outstanding painter who initiated the foundation of the Society of Fine Arts, "Zachęta".

In September 1939, and during German occupation, the parishioners of the Holy Trinity Church participated in the tragic history of their city and in the martyrdom of the Polish nation. Bishop Juliusz Bursche, the head of the Lutheran Church in Poland and previous pastor of the Holy Trinity Parish became a martyr under the Nazis. The church fell into ruin when bombed and burnt on **September 16th, 1939**. Together with the church, all parish institutions, schools and the parish house were ruined. The hospital was destroyed in the time of the Warsaw ghetto extermination in 1943.



Almost immediately after the Germans' withdrawal Warsaw Lutherans began to rebuild their church. The first services took place under the open sky within burnt but cleared from rubble walls of the church. In 1952-1956 the reconstruction of the church was taken over by state authorities. The plans were to transform the church into a secular building. In 1956 the church was returned to the legal owner - the Lutheran parish in Warsaw. The Parish Committee on Reconstruction of the Holy Trinity Church finished their work quickly. On June **22nd 1958** the ceremony of **reconsecration of the church** at Małachowski's Square took place. The act of the consecration was performed by Bishop Karol Kotula.