

## **The Luise-Church**

The first church was built in 1712-1716 to plans by Philipp Gerlach. It was a simultaneum, i.e. used equally by Reformist and Lutheran worshippers. The wooden tower was found to sway during ringing of the bells and was therefore demolished. In 1823-1825, great changes were made following suggestions by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. For example, a square steeple was built in stone. The name Luise-Church was conferred in memory of the deceased Queen Luise of Prussia. During the 19 and 20 century a series of renovations and alterations was undertaken.

After being struck by bombs, the church burned down almost completely in 1943. In 1951, staged reconstruction began under the supervision of the architects Lagotz and Lehmann and the state conservator Hinnerk Scheper. Alterations were made to the church interior and to the tower, which since carries a low, pyramidal roof. The re-dedication was celebrated in 1953. In 1968 a new organ was installed. During renovation of the façade in 1976-1977 the church once again received the warm yellow shades of the baroque period. The interior was rearranged by Jochen Langenheinicke in the style of Schinkel in 1987-1988.

Although funeral services take place in the Luise-Church, there has never been a burial ground at this site. The Luise-Cemeteries I to III can be found in Lietzow and Westend.

## **The Windows**

Nine stained lead-glass windows with biblical scenes can be seen in the eastern aisle. They were designed by the well-known expressionist artist Ludwig Peter Kowalski and sponsored by Heinrich Mendelssohn as well as other collections and donations. Today they are seen behind the reredos and illuminate the nave of the church with their colours.

## **The Altar**

The current altar painting came to the Luise-Church in 1987. It was originally painted by Carl Gottfried Pfannschmidt in 1869-1870 for the Chapel of the Deaconess Hospital Bethanien in Berlin-Kreuzberg. This explains the selection of themes for the altar images, which relate to the charitable actions. The main picture shows the Lamentation of the Body of Christ beneath the cross, but it is the merciful acts of the people which are emphasised. Joseph of Arimathea sits in the centre holding the body taken from the cross in his lap. Maria kneels to his right. Opposite, Maria Magdalena binds the feet of the body and two other women hold the arms of the deceased. To the left stands Nicodemus with sweet smelling ointments and to the right is John, who took the crown of thorns from the dead Christ. In the central scene in the predella, the three women are seen who, carrying oils and ointments, entered the empty burial cave on Easter Monday to be greeted by an angel. In the left image of the predella, the beggar Lazarus is depicted in the lap of Abraham, in the right image the Good Samaritan.

## **Lamentation of the Body of Christ**

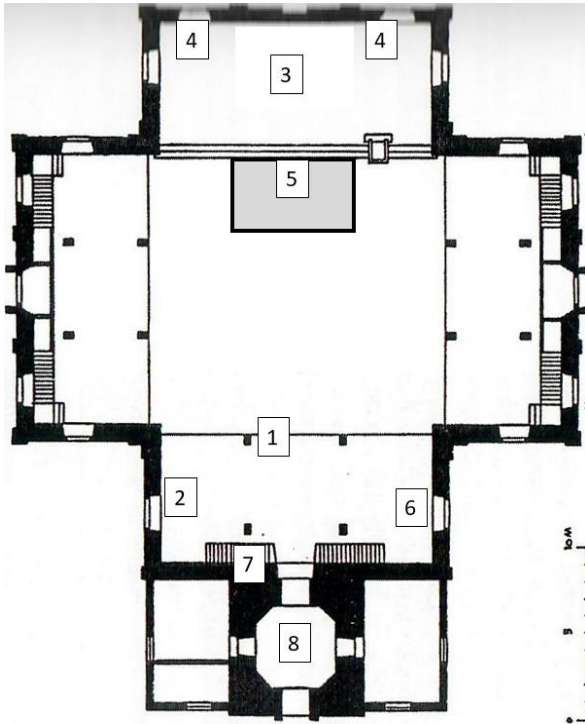
Beneath the west gallery hangs a painting by a Flemish artist, signed with the monogram AST (?). Its theme is the Lamentation of the Body of Christ. The devotional image is dated to the second half of the 17 century and is intended to stimulate empathy for Christ's death by Crucifixion and for his mourners. The crucified Christ is framed by his disciple John and Mary, Mother of God, by Mary Magdalene and by another apostle. Around them stand Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who later anointed the body (the ointment vessel is seen to the right) and laid it in the grave, along with a third person wearing a grand turban. The basket on the left holds the instruments of Christ's passion.

## **Memorial**

*All who fell on sea and land have fallen into your hand; all who cry in the darkness of the night are guarded by your goodness*  
The inscription in the entrance hall has stood as a reminder of the victims of World War II since 1959. The poem is by Siegfried Goes, who himself was killed in World War II.

## **The Bells**

The tones of the bells are coordinated and reproduce the frequent Te Deum motif, after the beginning of the liturgical chant of the same name (d-f-g). The Luise-Church has one old bronze bell from 1823 and two steel bells from 1953.



## Information and Contact

<https://luisenkirche.de>  
<https://www.luisenorgel.de>

### Parish Office

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### Opening Hours

Tue/Wed/Fr 10:00 - 13:00  
Thu 15:00 - 18:00 Uhr

### Donations

#### Freunde der Luise-Kirchengemeinde e.V.

Chairman: Dr. Hartmut Meyer  
KD-Bank eG  
IBAN DE83 3506 0190 1567 2210 12  
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#### Orgelbauverein der Luisekirche e.V.

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Welcome to the  
Evangelical parish of the  
Luise-Church,  
Berlin-Charlottenburg

