

Renovations

The church was expanded in 1847 by extending the chancel to the east. The sanctuary took the place of the original sacristy, and five new rows of pews were added to the choir.

After the completion of Alexander Church in 1881, the wooden church fell into disuse, but was then refurbished in the 1890s in the spirit of the Renaissance Revival.

In 1953–1954, the church was renovated according to a design by **Nils Erik Wickberg**. During the renovation, the original side galleries of the church were removed. Gold stars were added to the ceiling dome.

The renovation of the facades of the church and belfry, which was carried out in 1995–1996, was designed by architect **Hanna Lyytinen**. She also designed an accessible entrance to the church in 2011.

The interior of the church was redesigned in 2020–2021. Rows of pews were removed from the back of the nave and the transepts, and some pews were replaced with movable seats. The church can currently seat 240 people.

A soundproofed space made of glass was built in the church, and adjustable mood lighting was installed. An accessible toilet and a café were built under the organ loft. The church and belfry were equipped with an automatic fire suppression system.

The church received new exterior lighting in 2024.



Priestly Blessing

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May His face shine upon you and be
gracious to you. May He look upon you
with kindness, and give you His peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Contact information

THE OLD CHURCH

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Accessibility



The nave is accessible.



Accessible entrance via the door facing the park



Accessible toilet under the organ loft



Induction loop




Assistance dogs are welcome in the church.

 **FEDERATION OF TAMPERE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN PARISHES**

The Tampere Lutheran Parishes Communications Unit
Images Hannu Jukola • Grano 2026


VANHA
KIRKKO

The Old Church

 english





Built in 1824, the Old Church is the first church in the city of Tampere. The church was designed by the Italian-born **Charles (Carlo) Bassi** (1772–1840).

The Old Church is one of the sixteen churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Parishes of Tampere. Its style is that of a Neoclassical cruciform church.

Quarter-century church project

It took more than two decades for Tampere to get a church of its own. Founded in 1779, the city of Tampere had only a modest chapel converted from the servants' hall of Tammerkoski Manor, which was declared unfit for use in 1800.

The construction project was delayed by disputes over the location and building materials of the church. Until the very end, the vicar of Messukylä, **Henrik Weckman**, advocated for a stone or brick church to be built next to the cemetery (now Pyynikki Church Park). The townspeople, on the other hand, wanted a wooden church in a central location next to the square, as the collection funds were not sufficient to pay for a stone or brick church.

By order of the Senate of Finland, Carlo Bassi, head of the Intendant's Office, drew up a plan for a 'temporary' wooden church. The construction contract was carried out by the merchant **Adolf Fredrik Lindberg**.

The church, completed in the autumn of 1824, was opened with the permission of the cathedral chapter before its consecration. The first service in the church was held on Advent Sunday 28 November 1824. The church was consecrated on 11 April 1825.

The Old Church is the third oldest church in present-day Tampere. Older than it are the Messukylä Old Church (circa 1510–30) and the Teisko Church (1787–88).

The belfry

The belfry was designed by **Carl Ludvig Engel** (1778–1840), a German architect and head of the Intendant's Office. The belfry was built in 1828–1829. Apothecary **Anders Wilhelm Tennberg** was in charge of the project. The foundation walls were made of grey granite, the walls of brick and the roof of plate iron.

The belfry has two bells. The large bell was ordered from Stockholm in 1828. The smaller bell is from 1999. The old small bell, used since 1790, cracked on Epiphany 1998 and is now on display inside the church.

The tower clock, with only an hour hand, was the first public timepiece in Tampere. The clock, made by **Juho Jaakonpoika Ala-Könni** (1798–1865), who belonged to a family of clockmakers from Ilmajoki, was installed in 1835.



The altarpiece

The altarpiece was painted by **Robert Wilhelm Ekman** (1808–1873), who was only 22 years old and a student at the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm at the time. *Jesus in Gethsemane* was completed in 1831.

Ekman, known as a master of romantic portrait painting, later painted several altarpieces for Finnish churches.

The pulpit

The wooden pulpit was designed by architect **Carl Aleksander Engel** (1818–1843). It was built in 1842 by master builder **Enok Linderholm**. Its ornamentation sets it apart from the Neoclassical style of the church.

The organ

The church was equipped with an organ built by **Anders Thulé** (1813–1872) of the Kangasala Organ Factory in 1848. Of the original organ, the central part of the façade with dummy pipes remains. The organ was rebuilt in 1904 (Albanus Jurva) and 1925 (Kangasala Organ Factory). The current, fully mechanical instrument is from 1988 (Kangasala Organ Builders). It has two manuals and 21 ranks.