

storage place and later as a Navy club. The altar was replaced by a stage, and a movie projection booth was mounted on the organ loft. Nevertheless, the general layout and acoustics of the nave remained intact.

On June 29, 1989 sixteen Lutherans gathered in the city library and decided to reestablish a Lutheran congregation in Vyborg. The first Divine Services were held on the premises of School No. 10.

In 1991 Russian Ministry of Defence gave the church building back to the Vyborg Lutheran congregation. In June of 1991 it was consecrated again.

In 1993-1996 the building was renovated. In 1996 a new altar was purchased in Estonia. A Finnish Lutheran congregation from Mikkeli donated a small pipe organ, which still remains the only full-size pipe organ North of St. Petersburg. The bell was cast in 2001 in St. Petersburg.

Currently the congregation has over 100 members, two pastors and a deacon. Believers are engaged in missionary and charity activity. Weekly services are held in Russian (Finnish translation may be provided if those who don't understand Russian are present).

Divine Service:	Sun. 11:00
Sunday School:	Sun. 11:00
Gregorian Vesper:	Sat. 18:00
Bible Study:	Wed. 19:45; Sat. 18:30
Teenage club:	Sat. 15:30
Christian movie nights:	Th. 18:00
Christianity 101 class:	Wed. 18:00

You can find the updated schedule of these and other events on the church website: wiborg.jimdo.com and on the bulletin board in the church's lobby.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mail: 188800, Russia, Vyborg, Pionerskaya st. 6

Phone: +7 (81378) 2-05-13

E-mail: viipuri.ev.lut@mail.ru

VKontakte: https://vk.com/viborg_sobor

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vyborg.lutheran/>

Dear friends!

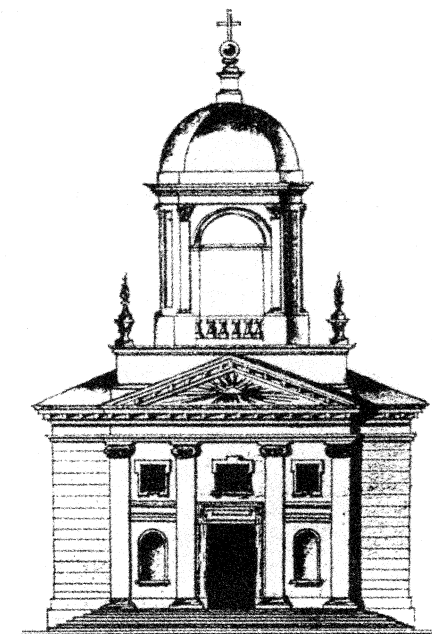
Our parish relies upon voluntary donations for its existence. Please, consider donating a feasible amount to support our ministry.

God bless you!

Vyborg Evangelical-Lutheran Parish

Stt. Peter and Paul Church

TWO CENTURIES OF HISTORY



Independent German Lutheran congregation emerged in Vyborg in the 17th century, but many years it did not have a church building of its own and held worship services in the City Hall, in the Finnish Lutheran cathedral and in the Finnish Rural Parish church (formerly the church of the local Dominican convent).

In 1783 Governor Engelhardt requested a permission from Emperatress Catherine the Great to collect donations for a new Lutheran church. Collections were made in Lutheran parishes of Russia, Estonia and Latvia. About the same time — at the initiative of pastor August Vahl — the local German and Swedish Lutheran congregations merged.

The ground for the new church was broken near the North-Eastern curtain of the Horned Fortress, next to the St. Petersburg gates. The initial project was drafted by the Chief Provincial Architect Johann Brockmann, but it did not satisfy the parishioners, and a renowned expert in neoclassical architectural design, Georg Friedrich Veldten, was asked to improve on the project.

Construction works were further delayed by a disaster — on June 1, 1793, massive fire destroyed all the accumulated building materials. Nevertheless, on August 6, 1793 the first stone was finally laid in the church's foundation.

The chief contractor was V. Buibin. Among the subcontractors were bricklayer Bootev and gilder Rhegler. Wooden floors were designed by F. Steinus and laid by carpenter Schwartz. Building materials were brought from Russia and Finland. The main door was made of Archangelsk oak. Contemporaries admired



*The first pastor of St. Peter & Paul church,
August Gottfried Vahl (1800-1812)*

the beautiful altar and skilful fretwork on the gallery.

The church was consecrated on June 29, 1799. Initially the church was to be named in honor of St. Catherine, but since the works ended under emperor Paul I, it was consecrated in the names of St. Peter and Paul.

A Meier organ was purchased in Hannover and mounted on the loft in 1839.

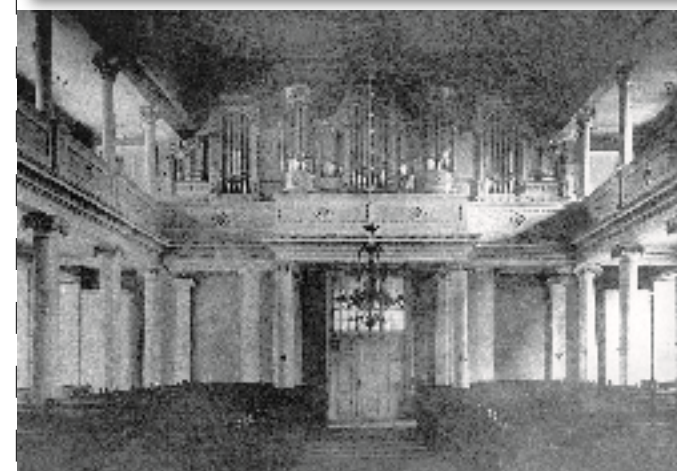
In 1885 the church was partly reconstructed by the local architect Jacques Arenberg.

Public worship in the church continued until 1940, when Vyborg was seized by the Soviet Army. The undamaged building was turned into a club. The organ was destroyed, and the altar stripped of its decorations.

When Vyborg was liberated by the Finns in 1941, the church was the only undamaged Lutheran ecclesiastical building in the city. Public worship resumed and continued until the final surrender of Finland. The last Divine Liturgy was conducted on June 11, 1944. Ten

thousand people gathered for the occasion. The church was too small to fit all worshippers, and many of them had to stand and pray outside. The church was short of bread and wine, and the pastors had to dilute wine with water and to break hosts into small pieces to commune everyone.

Vyborg was eventually annexed by the Soviet Union, and the church was used as a



The church interiors in 1930s