

Since 1891, there has been a Luther Memorial Church. The first place of worship was an upper room at the corner of Eighth and Maine Streets. The building was known as the police station because it had been used as the police magistrate's office. The congregation grew and decided to draw up a contract for a building. Land was purchased and Harvey Chatten drew plans and specifications. Messrs, Buerkin & Kaempfen were hired to construct the church at the present site for the cost of \$17,842. After all the changes and refurbishing, the total bill was over \$30,000. The dedication was May 15, 1894. At that time the building was one of the most modern in the city. In the north end of the building there is a stained glass window that is twenty-seven feet high and fourteen feet wide. The upper counter-piece represents an open Bible with crossed hilts and several panels of Scripture passages. Beneath is the life-size representation of Luther in the act of nailing the Ninety-five Theses on the church door of Wittenberg, which have had an enlightening influence upon the world and which inaugurated the Reformation. This window shows the church building to be strictly Lutheran. The smaller window on the north wall shows Scriptural passages, the Bible, the Ten Commandments, the four Gospels, wheat and grapes symbolizing Holy Communion, an hour glass for the swift passage of time and the dove, a symbol of peace and purity. On the west side of the building are more figured windows. On the east side is a large Rose window. This window originally was rose in color, but when the sanctuary was redecorated the rose was painted blue and burned into the glass to blend more pleasingly with the ceiling and to soften the sunlight. The floor is bowl-shaped, and seating is arranged in the amphitheater plan.

In 1911 a fire broke out and only damaged the Sunday school roof. Over a time, the growth of the church continued and there was a demand for expansion. In 1917, the entire basement was excavated and made into rooms. Then in 1924 another unit was added and occupied space from the church to the alley on the south. A second fire occurred on February 12, 1925 and did considerable damage. The greatest damage was in the original building and fortunately, the stained glass windows on 12th Street side survived. In 1943 there was a general renovation of the church property. In 1960, there was renovation in the church sanctuary and more in 1969.