The construction of the church, the parish church of the mediaeval New City of Berlin, probably started about 1270. The first certain reference to the structure was in a letter of indulgence from the year 1294. St. Mary's was built as a hall church in the style of the North German brick Gothic. Sturdy pillars in the form of an eight-leaved rosette support the vaults of the three aisles of the nave. In the East, the nave extends into a raised polygonal choir completed by five sides of a decahedron. After the devastating fire of 1380, the church was rebuilt. The vaults of the choir and at the Western end of the nave originate from this period. The tower was begun in 1415. The spire, which had been destroyed by fire (lightning!) in 1514 and 1661, was renewed in 1789 with copper plating, the two-storied spire we see today. It is an early example of the Neogothic style popular throughout the 19th century and was designed by Carl Gotthard Langhans (1732 – 1808), who also built the Brandenburg Gate.

About 1470 the murals of the Dance of Death and of the Virgin of Mercy were painted. The Dance of Death (or Danse macabre) is one of the oldest and most famous historical relics of Berlin. It is one of the few remaining medieval Dances of Death north of the Alps which is still to be seen at its place of origin, a monumental mural which is of very great importance for European art history. In the course of the Reformation about 1540 several altars were removed from the nave of the church. In the vaults below the church of St. Mary many prominent citizens of Berlin were buried. Of the remaining tombs the most important are those of Joachim Zerer, field-marshall Otto Christoph von Sparr, the mayor Joachim Lizmann, Ehrenreich von Röbel and the preacher Friedrich Roloff.

At the time of the Baroque, the Gothic church was transformed by the installation of the organ, the altar, and the pulpit. The pulpit, an important work of the sculptor Andreas Schlüter, was supposed to replace the altar as the primary focal point of the room. It was originally built on the second column of the northern aisle. The benches on the south side of the church were oriented toward this pulpit. The pulpit was moved to its present position in 1950. In order to return to the Gothic style, the architect Hermann Blankenstein caused sweeping changes to be made in 1893/94, which today decisively determine the looks of the church. The choir loft and the Emperor's box were built, as well as the flooring we have today.
Welcome to the protestant Church of St. Mary in Berlin!

A Gothic church more than 700 years old, St. Mary’s is one of the few structures remaining from the Middle ages in the center of the city. With its long tradition and valuable art collection, the church is a “history book of the Christian faith” and simultaneously a “memorial of the city of Berlin”. To represent both of these identities is part of the many city church activities in St. Mary’s, – serving the future in praise of God and for the best of the community.