

## August 11 – Church Symbols, Art and Architecture

1. What are some symbols of the Church?
2. Why does the Church spend money on buildings and art?
3. Some history of Church design and art.
4. Let's talk about our building.  
Design of the building

Baptismal Font

Altar (5 crosses)

Pulpit

Symbols on the Paraments

Stained Glass

### **From the Architect, Lawrence Monberg**

Not only members of Christ Lutheran but people in the community have watched with interest the building of Christ Lutheran Church since the start of construction in late summer of 1968, and now see it completed and dedicated this second day of November, 1969.

Christ Lutheran chose for its new facilities a site in the southwest section of the city, where it could erect its new building in a spacious setting and also allow for generous parking facilities for its members and visitors.

To provide both an easy entrance and exit, the church building has two main entrances, both leading to a large oak-paneled narthex which can be used for many purposes. But especially for Christian fellowship between and after the services - a vital element in church life today. To the right and left of each entrance, rooms are provided for Sunday School and other meetings. One of these will be used as a lounge area. Going from the wood and glass enclosed narthex we enter the lofty nave of the church which immediately envelopes the worshipper in reverence and sanctity.

Architecturally the church was conceived using simple geometric forms that lend themselves to contemporary construction techniques. Laminated wood arched form the principal structural elements which rise in ascending order from a low point at the narthex to the soaring height in the chancel area.

The importance of the sanctuary and chancel is the principle architectural element and emphasis is given in all scales: horizontally as the base of the arches increase in width; vertically, as the arches ascent; and in volume as a combination of the two. Theologically, it is the sinner coming into the presence of His Lord and Redeemer and joining in praise of Him who loved us.

Visually, the rear wall of the chancel is treated simply, using sculptured concave and convex forms in masonry. Further emphasis is given through the use of vertical slab glass windows, abstract in design, that give added scale to the height. All of these elements combine to focus attention on the cross. Beneath this is a massive, carved altar, the pulpit and the baptismal font.

Continuity of design and form is carried out through symmetrically planning the facilities about a central axis running the entire length of the structure. To the right of the chancel area are located the church offices, one paneled in hickory and the pastor's office in cherry. The entire church, offices and fellowship areas are carpeted marking further acoustical treatment unnecessary. The fellowship area will seat 250 people at table and will also be used for Sunday School purposes. The kitchen is modern in design and equipment. Ample storage space is provided in various areas of the building.

God, in His grace, endowed this congregation, the Planning Committee and Church Council, the Contractors and workers and all others with the "know-how" and the willingness to bring this project to a successful completion. This house of worship should serve Christ Lutheran for many years and is a house of worship attuned to the last part of this century and the next.

As we approached the day of Dedication it became apparent that one part of the exterior of the church would not be complete. To stand in the northwest corner of the property and church a most unusual cross has been designed. This will not be completed until later.

## **Windows in the Church**

The windows in the Chancel area of the church and the six windows in the nave of the Church were designed by Professor Richard Caemmerer, artist at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana. The windows were fabricated under the direction of Professor Caemmerer by the Conway Universal Studios of Glass of Winona, Minnesota. The artist' Own description of the windows follows:

"In designing and fabricating these windows, I thought of the people at worship and a motif appropriate to the design of the building. What I have done is simply an illustration of the doxology in our Lutheran Hymnal, - "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow: Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." This is one of the six great hymns of the church.

We have across the top the symbol of the Trinity. The circle of the Father, then the flame here, and there is a dove shape representing the Holy Spirit. The major dominant theme of the whole top part - not just the circle but the cross is the symbol of the Son which are drops of blood coming from the cross. On the left side as you face the chancel, the blood refers ultimately to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. There is a chalice, a host, the grape and wheat. ON the right side is the fire which ultimately refers to the water and the shell of baptism. So we have described for us the major sacrifice. Beneath these we have another reference to a third sacramental from the Lutheran Liturgy and that is the "Word." It is not a Sacrament but it is a sacramental element.

On the right side we have a book with open pages and on the left side we have a scroll from the Old Testament. Beneath that on both sides we have "all creatures here below." On the left side we have the sun and the rain, growing trees, houses, in fact, even factories with smoke coming out - obviously very, very abstract. On the right side we have the crescent moon and the stars. So you have night and day, sunshine and rain - the whole world in a geodesic glow. Beneath it, representative of all people on earth, are the colors of men - black, red, yellow, white, and brown. In fact, there is a little pagoda shape on the right side and beneath that a family, people, father, mother, son and daughter.

In other words, the window is the faith life of the Christian Church on earth and one over-arching act of praise. I feel it is a happy, joyful, celebrated kind of thing.

The windows in the nave are to carry out further this theme of "Praise God" but this time it is nature and life itself which praises God. Here on the left side of the nave, facing the chancel, the first window from the rear of the nave is Morning with the sun rising in all its color. The second window with its green and yellows, Nature Growing, represents the springtime of the year. The third window with the sun at its highest point, and its rich colors gives us the season of Summer.

Then, following the windows on the right side to the rear of the nave, the first window shows us the season of Fall, with the sun a little bit lower in the skies and there are the colors of that season. The next window with the sun still lower brings us the season of Winter. This is shown in the grays and blues. The final window brings us to Evening with the setting sun - a bit of color here and there.

But these windows are also life itself! From the last window we turn once more to the chancel area and its windows bringing us the message of salvation in Christ."

**-Richard Caemmerer**