

Celebration Moment #6 Bricks & Mortar – Our Church Home

When you enter the church or the CLWC building, do you ever wonder how an architect goes about designing a church? What elements do they need to include in a house of worship? We have been fortunate to have had top-of-the-line architects design both our first church downtown near Eli Lilly's in 1911 and this church campus in 1963. Rubusch & Hunter, a well-known firm in the early 1900s designed the first church. While James Associates designed this church and won a merit award for it in 1963. In recent years, Jack Munson designed the narthex, chapel and the CLWC.

The sanctuary roof is a steep-pitch, A-frame. Members requested a steeple since the old church didn't have one. A simple diamond tower is above the communion table and allows a shaft of light to fall on the chancel.

The sanctuary layout is based upon the ancient and traditional idea of gathering around the table. The front of the church demonstrates we reach God through the Word and the Sacrament. The pulpit and communion table, while simply designed, leads us to the cross. The simple wooden cross, we estimate to be 16 feet tall, hangs on the chancel screen and reminds us of the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ. The baptism font is placed below the communion table signifying the stepping down into the water.

The chancel screen consists of vertical boards that were designed to have copper in between them. However, cost was a factor and the idea was dropped. Years later after much complaining by members and guests that the boards made everyone dizzy, small wooden blocks were inserted to break up the design.

The various shades of gray glass in the windows let's the outside in and remind us that the church is also "of the world."

Another interesting fact is that angles in these buildings are 30 or 60 degrees. Look around and you will notice the angles in the corners, the carpeting in the narthex and even the cuts in the sidewalks outside.

Did you know we didn't have air conditioning in the sanctuary until 1980? Two big fans didn't help cool the sanctuary on hot Sunday mornings. So after many discussions and debates it was decided to install air conditioning when it got so hot in here that a person keeled during the worship service.

In 2002, the narthex connecting the three buildings along with the Chapel was built. The beautiful art glass window depicting Christ and sheep is a reproduction of one of the beloved windows from the old church.

The CLWC also was a compilation of ideas from members. One of the first considerations was for the roofline to match the sanctuary roof. The Shalom service now has the space with a stage and a state of the art sound system to conduct Sunday morning services. Space for physical activities and an adjoining kitchen gives us the opportunity to have large gatherings in the CLWC. It is an ideal location for all ages.

The next time you enter the church, take a moment to look around. Many designs and colors remind us of the beauty God created.