

# Church Architecture: Something Old, Something New

The photos below highlight Faith Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg, GA, the church that *makes a statement.. It says that you celebrate your past, but want to be relevant in the present. It says that you take your faith and your God seriously.* (from Worship the Lord #18, March 2006)

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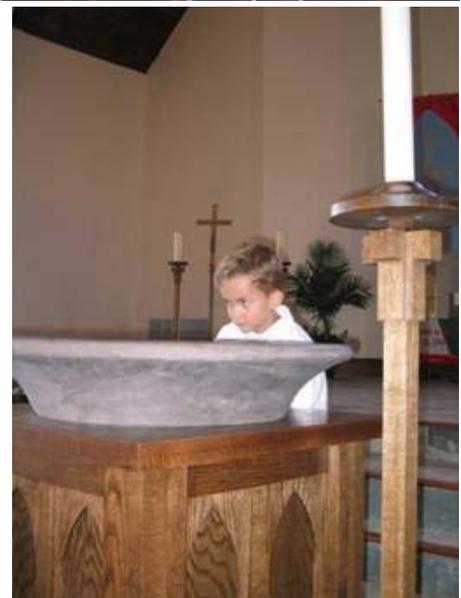


*“It Looks Like a Church”*



Pastor Jon Schroeder states: The interior design of our sanctuary could be called neo-gothic. Specifically, it emphasizes verticality, and utilizes load-bearing masonry. The nave is built on four 50,000 pound concrete arches. They serve both functionally to support the roof, and aesthetically to give the space a sense of rock-solid stability. The verticality of the space and upward sweep of the windows help to communicate that we are in the house of God; we have come to worship He Who is Above.

Placement of the font gave us another opportunity to express theology. We placed the font at the foot of the chancel in the center aisle, on the same axis with the altar. Its location stresses the importance of baptism and reminds us what baptism means for our daily life. As we approach the altar for the Supper, we go past the font where God adopted us into his family.



Unchurched first-time visitors remarked that it was the emphasis on sacred space that made them look at us more closely.



The Christus Rex window above the altar reminds us of our focus on Christ in worship; the oculus window of the Spirit is in the back. As we leave, our focus is the Spirit's work in our lives.



The design differs greatly from other churches in the community. Most are steel buildings that emphasize function entirely over form. This design serves to mark this building as sacred space.

