

# Church Architecture: From Catholic to Lutheran

The photos below highlight the remodeling process that gave Peace Lutheran Church in Kokomo, IN, a beautiful “new” facility.

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Limestone walls, slate floors, and marble accents imported from Italy - the 50 year old former Roman Catholic church had these beautiful elements, but lacked good lighting and was too large to convey a sense of community to the Peace congregation (membership 60). The original altar was 30 feet from the first pew.

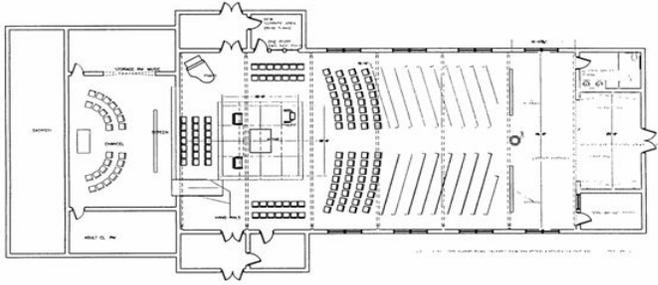
*How was a mission congregation of 60 going to fit into an old Roman Catholic church that seated 400?*



*The beautiful result*

We brought the altar out of the chancel onto the first step and built a reredos (screen) to create a backdrop for the altar . . .The reredos frames the cross on the front wall to give the worshiper a powerful visual of the central focus of our faith.

To give the impression that the sanctuary was fuller than it was and therefore worshipful for a smaller group, we removed all of the pews. The front half of the nave was filled with 120 cushioned chairs designed to look like pews from behind.



The top floorplan show the new smaller worship area, the small memorial chapel behind the reredos, and the location of the altar and pulpit, closer to the people.

The sanctuary feels full with a small group seated in the chairs, yet still can seat 250 comfortably.

The space between pews was enlarged from 36 to 42 inches. The additional row space gives worshipers more room for maneuvering, even allowing people to walk out of a row without disturbing others still seated.



The custom designed free standing altar is decorated with carvings of Luther's seal and grapevines. The pulpit bears the same symbolic carvings.