

# Sanctuary Renovation Update

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## How We Got Here

- 2003: Parish Assistance Report
- 2005: Met with consultants to assess needs (no cost)
  - Rev. Bryan Gerlach, from WELS Commission on Worship
  - E. J. Potente, Liturgical Design Consultant
  - Scott Riedel, Acoustic Consultant
- 2006: Plan for updating Sanctuary requested and assembled
- November 2013: Sanctuary Renovation Committee first meeting
- February 2014: Presentation to Congregation on reasoning behind renovation
- March, 2014: Congregation voted to move forward with Renovation Project without borrowing
- June 2014: Presentation and Consultation on Church Architecture by Pastor Aaron Christie, WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District Worship Coordinator
- June 2014: Committee toured area churches
- August 2014: Interviewed and hired architect, acoustic consultant, and furnishings designer
- November 2014: Bulletin insert series with details about specific problems to address and possible solutions
- December 2014: Renovation survey conducted
- January 2015: Update to Coordinating Council
- February 2015: Coordinating Council directs Renovation Committee to push April 6 start date to later this year or early part of next year.

## Renovation Goals

- Glorify God and Adorn His House with a Christ-Centered Focus
- Enhance and Invigorate Worship for Members and Visitors
- Create a More Functional and Inclusive Worship Space
- Maintain and Update Our Facility

## Achieving those Goals

- Handicap Accessibility and Seating
- Acoustics and Audio
- Video Projection
- Lighting
- Visual Impact

## Handicap Accessibility and Seating

### Problems

- Steps for Communion access don't allow all to approach the Communion rail. Some are not able to kneel with the rest of communicants.
- Leaving the worship space to go through Sacristy and Altar Guild room after communing is somewhat awkward
- Limited handicap seating
- Worn, damaged, faded pews

### Solutions

- Communion will be at front step, standing, to accommodate wheelchairs and those who have trouble with steps and kneeling
- Sturdy chairs will replace front two rows of pews, back two rows of pews and pews in overflow area to increase handicap seating.
- Widened aisle on south side for easier handicap access.
- New pews

## Acoustics and Audio

### Problems

- Choirs singing in front are not heard as well and have a hard time hearing each other
- Congregational singing can be boosted with better acoustics
- Slap echo from balcony face and flutter echo from upper side walls
- Current assistive listening system is aging
- Poor control over pastors' microphone levels
- Hearing difficulties in overflow seating.

### Solutions

- Hard flooring in strategic places
- Diffusive acoustic panels in strategic places
- Inductive Hearing Loop System for hearing impaired
- Digital sound mixer for better microphone control
- Better speaker placement in overflow area

## Video Projection

### Problems

- 15-year-old projector is dim and the image is grainy
- Current viewing surface hinders good view of projection image
- Lack of ability to record camera video while showing a slide show (e.g. during a sermon)
- Sightline issues for overflow and balcony seating

### Solution

- Larger projection surface at a better angle
- Two new projectors for projection on either side of cross
- Simultaneous projection and recording capability
- Video screens for overflow area and balcony

## Lighting

### Problems

- Dim environment, especially for evening services
- Video for shut-ins and the internet is sub-par because of low light levels
- Important visual elements in chancel are not adequately highlighted
- Lack of flexible lighting control
- Inefficient fixtures

### Solutions

- Increase overall brightness
- Possible combination of indirect and direct lighting
- Highlight chancel furnishings with focused lighting
- Highlight architectural features like the Lannon stone walls
- Improved dimming system
- Energy cost savings with new fixtures

## Visual Impact

### Problems

- Sanctuary feels dated compared to new additions
- The cross does not stand out as it should
- Chancel furnishings are in poor shape and lack visual prominence
- Distance makes worshippers in back feel removed from ritual action in chancel
- Large front speakers compete visually with symbols of the Means of Grace
- Sprinkler system needs to blend into architecture better

### Solutions

- Update of Altar, Font and Ambo, new paint and flooring.
- A new suspended cross to be more visible and prominent.
- Bring the altar and with it the ritual action closer to the people
- Replace front speakers with narrow column array speakers on sides to blend in with architecture
- Sprinkler system will be hidden in purlins that will extend from the chancel all the way to back of church

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How old is our church? When was the most recent remodel to the sanctuary?**

*A: The groundbreaking for the existing building was in 1958. Peace members started worshipping in this facility in 1960. The chancel was remodeled in 1994, when the reredos wall was redone, and the current carpeting was installed.*

**Q: I like the way our existing sanctuary looks. I have a lot of memories in this space. Why are we changing it?**

*A: All the people on the committee like the existing space as well, and several on the committee have been members since before the current building was built. That said, many in our congregation are ready for a change and an update as well. We have sought to strike a balance between updating the space and making it more functional and inclusive, yet retaining the general character of the original architecture. We feel that the changes being made honor that. While we will never please everyone, we are trying to strike a balance.*

*The committee feels that most of the changes that are being made are of a practical nature and not merely cosmetic. The changes address many practical needs that have come to light over the last few years.*

**Q: Why are we getting new pews? Can't we just continue to use the old ones?**

*A: The current pews are nearly 60 years old and somewhat worn from scuffs, stains and old stickers for communion registration. Around half of all the end caps of the pews are damaged from the wood splitting over time. The pews on the south side of the nave are faded because of the sunlight coming through the south windows. They would certainly look out of place in a newly remodeled room. After some research, the committee has found that refinishing the existing pews would cost at least 75% of the cost to replace them. If we were to keep the current pews and replace at a later date, the flooring would need to be redone at the same time because new holes would need to be drilled into the floor. It makes long term, practical, and financial sense to kill two birds with one stone and disturb the worship space once rather than twice.*

*Getting new pews also allows us to configure the seating area in a way that we can widen the north side aisle for better handicap access to the back of the nave. Pews without armrests may equalize seating locations so that it will be easier to minimize "pew blocking" and make seating latecomers a little easier. The absence of armrests also makes it easier for someone to transfer from a wheelchair to a pew a little more easily.*

**Q: Will we lose any seating with the new seating configuration?**

*A: We will lose somewhere around 20 seats in the reconfiguration of the seating. With the church near maximum capacity about six times out over 200 services throughout the year, and with the ability to add folding chairs as needed, the committee feels that the ability to better serve worshippers with special needs and the opportunity to create more of a sense of community in worship outweigh the prospect of losing a few seats.*

**Q: If we have a significant budget deficit, won't this negatively impact giving for the operating fund?**

*A: This same question came up many times during the run up to the church and school additions. After just eight years, the \$2 million project has been paid off and during the time of the building projects, there was no significant impact to offerings. Since then, our church membership has grown and school enrollment has remained steady in a climate where most WELS schools have seen a decline in enrollment. It is our hope that these improvements will invigorate participation among our own members and generate interest with visitors.*

**Q: I don't feel a renovation is needed. Why are we even considering this?**

*A: Very significant and generous gifts have been given specifically for this purpose before the project started. Nearly every space on our campus has been updated except our worship space, the most important room on campus. When speaking with several different consultants, synod personnel, new members, and visitors, many have agreed on several issues that people coming from the outside see, but we members would not necessarily notice because we are used to the space and see it every week.*

*With that in mind, we want to put our best foot forward with guests in mind but also improve the worship experience for current members as well. Greater accessibility and hearing intelligibility makes our worship space more inclusive. The committee feels it would be irresponsible not to have a plan for maintaining the most important room on campus. Most importantly, we want to give God our very best because he has given us his best, and he deserves nothing but the best from us.*

**Q: Wouldn't it be better to use this money to help others in need or to do outreach and mission work?**

*A: Peace is committed to supporting both local ministry and ministry abroad. To put things in perspective, since 2000, Peace has contributed about \$2 million to ministry outside of our walls which includes missions, humanitarian aid, and ministry training. Over the next 30 years, if we give at the same rate, Peace will likely contribute, Lord willing, over \$4 million more to broader ministry. This amount of \$6 million compares with about \$2.5 million in building projects over the last 10 years including the Sanctuary Renovation. Renovations to our sanctuary, which we hope can serve our congregation for at least the next 30 years, can help us better serve people with special needs, revitalize worship for our members, and help Peace make an even more positive impression on visitors from our community.*

*Individuals have given significant gifts designated specifically for a renovation of the sanctuary before the project began. Because of the many practical improvements that can be made and the desire to be good stewards of the facility with which we have been blessed, the committee, your pastors, and the church leadership believe this is a wise of use of resources.*

**Q: What will happen with the old items? (Furnishings, A/V equipment, etc.)**

*A: Many possibilities exist. Builders for Christ may be able to use some items in mission churches. Some of the sound equipment may be able to be used to update the aging gymnasium sound system. Some have suggested the existing cross be used in the school somehow. We will make every effort to be good stewards and repurpose old materials.*

**Q: Will we have the capability of streaming church services live?**

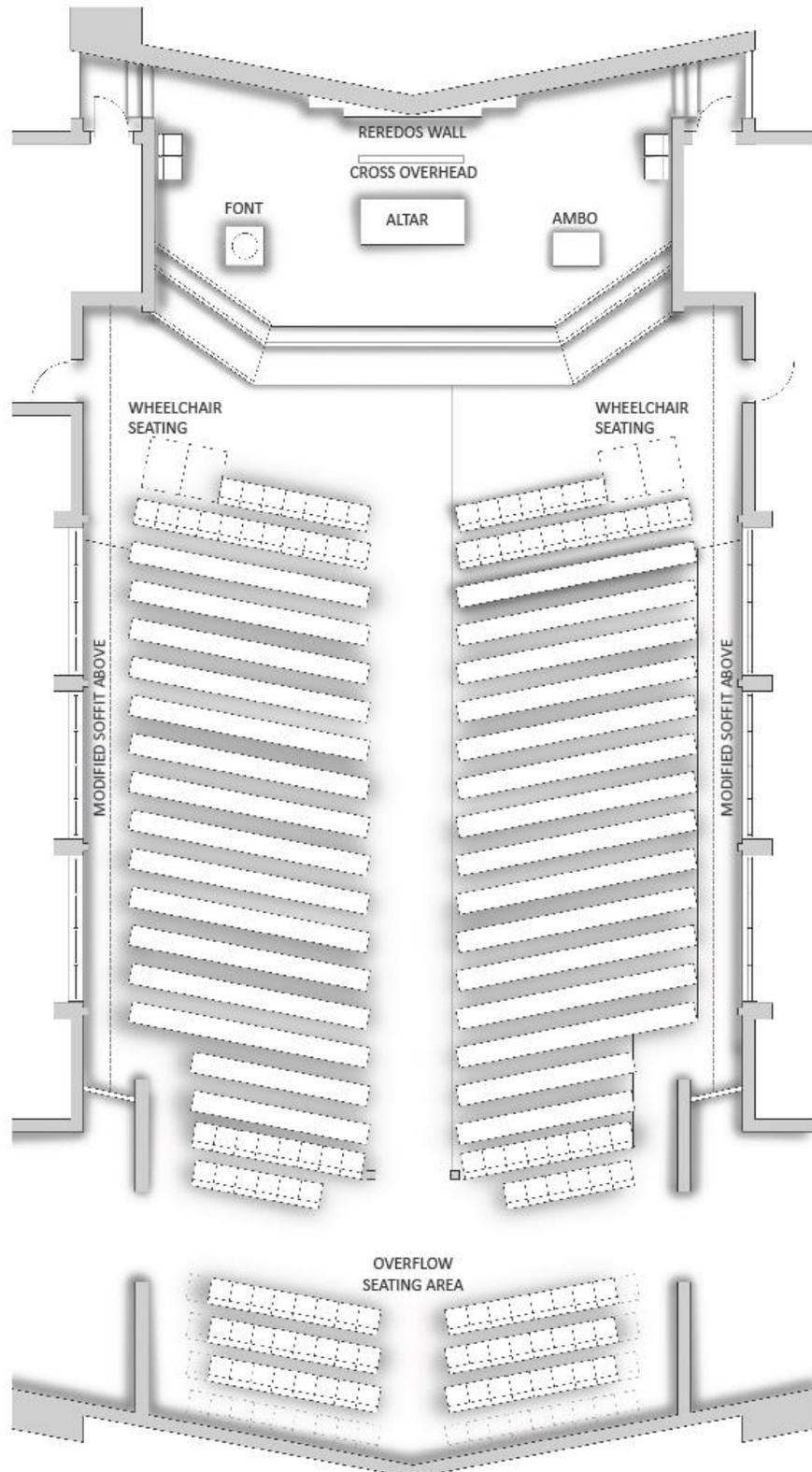
*A: We are looking into that possibility. We would need a hard-wired connection to the internet in order stream video. We also need to address issues of copyrighted material like music for such streaming video.*

**Q: What were the results of the survey that was conducted?**

*A: A large majority of the written comments were positive and constructive. Most of the negative comments were concerns about funding and incurring more debt. A few negative comments indicated a desire not to change anything because of familiarity.*

*The issue that was most favorably received and seen as a priority was communion accessibility. After that were, video projection, hearing loop system, lighting, flexible and accessible seating, and updated and prominent chancel furnishings, respectively.*

Architect: Paul Barribeau, Groth Design Group, Cedarburg [gdg-architects.com](http://gdg-architects.com)  
Chancel Furnishings: Antoinette Massmann, Massmann Studios, Tyrone, GA [massmannstudios.com](http://massmannstudios.com)  
Acoustics and A/V: Dave Hosbach, DSH Audio Visions, Milwaukee [dshaudiovisions.com](http://dshaudiovisions.com)  
Lighting Engineer: Jim Knoerr, Dolan & Dustin, Inc., Milwaukee [dolandustin.com](http://dolandustin.com)



## Goals for the Renovation

1. Glorify God and Adorn His House with a Christ-Centered Focus
2. Enhance and Invigorate Worship for Members and Visitors
3. Create a More Functional and Inclusive Worship Space
4. Maintain and Update Our Facility

\*Denotes items that serve multiple purposes.

<b>Enhance and Invigorate Worship</b>	<b>Functional and Inclusive Worship Space</b>	<b>Maintain and Update Our Facility</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard flooring in strategic places*</li> <li>• Acoustic panels*</li> <li>• Hearing loop system*</li> <li>• Projection improvements*</li> <li>• Video screens for overflow seating*</li> <li>• Highlighting furnishings</li> <li>• Update furnishings</li> <li>• Replace large speakers</li> <li>• Hide sprinkler system</li> <li>• Flexible lighting control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communion access</li> <li>• Chairs in front and back</li> <li>• Widened aisles</li> <li>• Hard flooring in strategic places*</li> <li>• Acoustic panels*</li> <li>• Hearing Loop System*</li> <li>• Digital sound mixer</li> <li>• Projection improvements</li> <li>• Video screens in overflow*</li> <li>• Improve overall brightness</li> <li>• Lighting for video recording</li> <li>• Flexible lighting control</li> <li>• Bring altar closer to the people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooring*</li> <li>• New pews</li> <li>• Hearing loop system*</li> <li>• Digital sound mixer</li> <li>• Projection improvements*</li> <li>• Energy efficient light fixtures</li> <li>• Paint</li> <li>• Asbestos Abatement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Glorify God and Adorn His House with a Christ-Centered Focus</b></p>		