

POSSIBLE LIGHTING CONSIDERATIONS

We have many questions to consider as a committee so that our lighting is more functional and impactful. Could we augment our current indirect lighting scheme by adding hanging fixtures or by adding more indirect lighting fixtures? Can we provide additional fixtures that will draw more focus to the important action that happens in the chancel? Would we benefit from adding a digital light dimmer that will help us create lighting schemes for specific services? How can we make use of LED technology to save on energy bills? We are looking to experts who specialize in lighting liturgical spaces and can give scientific and artistic guidance in being stewards of God's gift of light.

WE ARE EAGER TO SHARE

Over the coming weeks we'd like to provide a weekly insert, like the one you're reading now. Each week will cover a different topic related to our worship space.

November 9

Communion Accessible to All

November 16

Helping Others to Hear and Be Heard

November 23

A Warmer, Well-Lit Space

November 30

More Than a Make-Over

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

On the weekend of December 7, the Renovation Committee is planning a brief (10-15 minute) presentation after each service, which will summarize these areas. We're also planning a lengthier presentation sometime in January, complete with artist renderings, access to our design consultant, Paul Barribeau, from Groth Design Group.

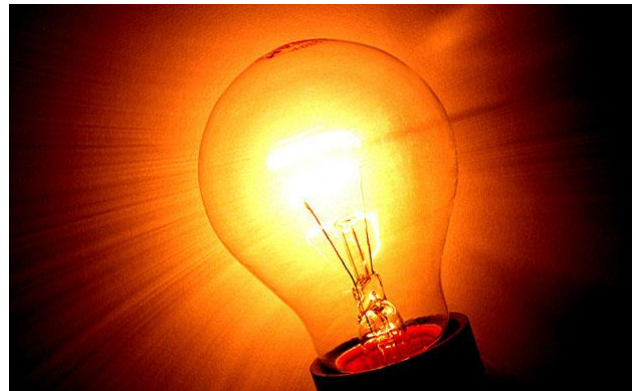
We are looking forward to sharing what we've learned and receiving feedback from all our Peace members.

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee

Don Radke, Chairman / Mike Marquardt, Secretary
Rodney Schulz / Betty Wolf / Janice Radke / Brian
Horst / Minette Wolf / Clarence Roethle
The Pastoral Staff

Peace Sanctuary Renovation

A Warmer, Well-Lit Space



What role does light play in our worship...

...in a daytime service?

...at an evening service?

...on Christmas Eve?

...on Good Friday?

*Look around the sanctuary at our lighting.
Knowing that areas of brightness catch our
attention, what are the brightest areas of our
worship space?*

*Are there places in the sanctuary that are
perhaps not bright enough? Are there times of
the day when you feel overall lighting is on the
dim side in our sanctuary?*

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Ever since God created it in Genesis 1:3, he has used light (or a lack thereof) for varied and specific purposes to guide his people. When he delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, he led them by a pillar of fire at night so they could see where they were going. Later it hovered over the tabernacle, their place of worship, drawing their focus to the place where the rituals of atonement were conducted and as a representation of God's presence among them. The light of a star directed the magi to the place where they would present their tribute to their King and Savior. When Jesus was transfigured and displayed his divine glory, his face shone as bright as lightning and it had a dramatic impact on the disciples that were with him.

God even used the absence of light to make a statement as well. The plague of darkness over Egypt, even as the Israelites enjoyed the warmth of light in Goshen, showed Pharaoh that the LORD was the only true God. When Jesus breathed his last breath on the cross, darkness dramatically covered the land, prompting the heathen centurion to declare that surely Jesus was the Son of God.

We know that light in our worship serves practical, aesthetic, and dramatic purposes. How can we be good stewards of these opportunities to use God's gift of light?

LIGHT HELPS US SEE

If you've ever been in an evening service, you know that the worship space can be relatively dim. We all know that adequate light can make reading easier and can help us see more detail in the things around us. It has been said that 70% of communication is visual, nonverbal communication. Better light on the pastors as they preach can help us to see their facial expressions better, which can have an impact on our understanding. Perhaps the most concrete example of needing better light on the pastors is the video that we produce and send to shut-ins and on the internet for the world to see. The lack of adequate lighting in certain areas of the chancel in certain services causes the video to appear dark and grainy and does not necessarily put our best foot forward.

LIGHT FOCUSES OUR ATTENTION

Look around you and determine the brightest part of the sanctuary. You'll probably note that, depending on the time of day, it is likely the upper walls on the side of the room. It brightly illuminates the arches, the sprinkler pipes, and the bare white walls above the lights. We do have a fair amount of light on the altar and cross, but some of the important action in a service happens in other places as well. Brighter light can better draw our attention to the baptismal font, to the pulpit, and to the center of the chancel when the pastors preach in the center.

LIGHT PROVIDES VIBRANCE, WELCOME, AND WARMTH

There are also some intangible benefits to better lighting in a worship space. A brighter worship space can help to create a vitality and energy in what we see and do. A brighter environment can be more inviting than a somewhat dim space. Brightness can provide a sense of warmth and welcome for our guests as well as our members.

LIGHTING CAN BE DRAMATIC

It is clear in the bible and in our lives that God has a flair for the dramatic. His Word not only works in supernatural ways so that it can create faith without our help, but also in psychological ways, where we are enabled to use his various gifts to proclaim the word in visceral and memorable ways. When we dim the lights on Christmas Eve, or put the sanctuary in darkness at a Good Friday Tenebrae service, we respond emotionally as the dramatic events of our Savior are read to us. The brightness of a festival service can energize us. These dramatic moments in worship often create lasting memories and lead us to proclaim, as Jesus' disciples did on the Mount of Transfiguration, "It is good, Lord, to be here!"

BRIGHTER AND CLEARER VIDEO PROJECTION

Many of our members and visitors are coming to church from homes with, and are used to seeing HDTVs, high-resolution tablets, and smartphones with crystal clarity. What they find in church is a twenty year-old projector with a dim image that is grainy and does not always work reliably. A new projector would be brighter, clearer, and could be adjusted to the angle from which it projects for a more natural viewing experience.