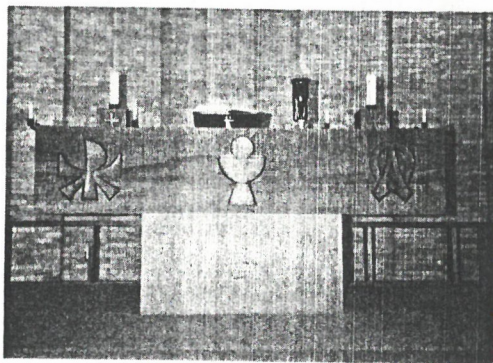


## CHANCEL DESIGN AND FURNISHINGS NOTES



### THE CHANCEL

The entire chancel area has been designed to proclaim that God's Presence in Christ is among His people. The free standing altar platform surrounded by the communion rail on the back and the sides and the open space in front reminds us that God is not separate from His people but with them! The furniture is made of mahogany wood, part of God's creation.

### THE ALTAR

The altar or table of the Lord with its gouged symbols and overshadowed by the suspended Latin cross, speaks visibly of God's Presence in Jesus Christ. God has revealed Himself in His Son!

The *Chi Rho Symbol* on the left side of the altar is the Greek form of the name Christ. "The Word became a human being and lived among us." (John 1:14)

The center *Cup and Wafer* is the Holy Communion Symbol, reminding us that Christ is present for us now in His Body and Blood, the consecrated bread and wine. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him to life on the last day." (John 6:54)

The *Alpha and Omega Symbol* on the right side of the altar serves to remind us that Christ is the beginning and the end of all things! "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev. 22:13)

### THE CROSS

The *Cross* is a constant reminder of that central event in history when man's sin was judged and forgiven by the God of Love. The Cross of Christ towers over all God-man and human relationships saying, "For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16). The Greek crosses on the altar communion candleholders also convey this message.

### THE PULPIT

The *Tongues of Fire* on the front of the pulpit speak of the tremendous power of God's Word! The Holy Spirit assures us that "the word of God is alive and active . . . it cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together." (Hebrews 4:12)

### THE BAPTISMAL FONT

The *Descending Dove* is symbolic of the Holy Spirit moving among us to create new life in the name of the Triune God . . . "because of his own mercy that he saved us through the washing by which the Holy Spirit gives us new birth and new life." (Titus 3:5)

### THE LECTERN

The reading stand with its *Open Book Symbol* serves to remind us that the Scriptures need to be opened and searched for life-giving power.

### THE WALL CANDLEHOLDERS

The Biblical preference for the number seven is seen here, but the primary symbol is *Light!* Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in the darkness."

(John 8:12)