



Calvary Lutheran Church

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To Whom It May Concern:

When Calvary began planning for renovations to make our building fully accessible, Jeff Smies was the architect recommended by one of the contractors we interviewed. Our project was delayed due to financial considerations and underwent a radical change as the Mission & Vision of our project expanded. We called upon Jeff as we restarted our plans for renovating our existing building.

Jeff and his team of architects and engineers started with Calvary's Mission & Vision goals, a floor plan of the existing building, and a layout of the property footprint. In discussion with our planning team, the desire to preserve our heritage while creating an innovative and flexible space emerged. From this foundation, Smies Architects created a plan that would meet our goals within a budget we could afford.

There were challenges along the way – for example, working with an existing building that had been built in three distinct phases, old plans and drawings of this building that were not entirely accurate or did not show necessary details, and modifying plans on the fly when it turned out that the drawings were not accurate and sections of the building did not mesh and blend as the drawings said they should.

Throughout the renovations, Jeff Smies and Ryan Schmitz met with our Site Team and kept track of all the tiny details of the project. They continued to listen to our planning team as modifications were made. They offered creative solutions and innovative ideas.

All of these skills were complemented by a genuine concern for the ministry that was taking place within our building as the renovations were taking place. Our construction crew became a faith community, and Calvary's ministry was enhanced by the work rather than hindered by a construction zone.

Due to cost, our renovations were split into two phases – phase one is now complete. I look forward to working with Smies Architects when we reach phase two. Our planning team and I highly recommend Jeff Smies and his team at Smies & Associates, Architects, for your project.

Peace in Christ,

the Rev. Kay S. Richter
Pastor