

ACLS**NEWSLETTER****ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR LITURGICAL SPACE***In this issue:***Member News -****Greg Lewis** - *It was the Summer of Restoration***Jim Hundt** - *Making the Case for Custom-Designed Liturgical Art & The Presidents Letter***Wiktor Szostalo** - *St. Francis Preaching to the Birds**Email from Ken Greisemer regarding Bill Beard***Upcoming Events****Webinar Schedule****Fall 2019 and Winter/Spring 2020.****October 2019** - Juanita Yoder, artist showcasing her art and process**November 2019** - Bob Kropac, consultant speaking on Reconciliation Room Design
January 2020 - Debra Luke, artist showcasing her art and process**February 2020** - Christine Reinhard, consultant presenting a retrospective of her consulting career**March 2020** - Brother Micky McGrath, speaking on Participatory Group art**April 2020** - Lauren Berge speaking on historic preservation**May 2020** - Jim Hundt, architect and Ken Greisemer, consultant speaking on the changing role of the Gathering Space

We would also like to remind members that they can access the webinars by going to the "Webinar" link in the Member's Area of the ACLS website.

**Member News:
Greg Lewis****IT WAS THE SUMMER OF RESTORATION 2018**

Greg Lewis, Liturgical Artist & ACLS Board Member
St. Matthew Lutheran Church ELCA, Beaverton, Oregon
Ernst Schwidder, Liturgical Artist & Sculptor & Pietro Belluschi, Design Architect, AIA
Main Entrance Copper Doors ca.1984

As Liturgical Artist and Design Director working with churches and hospitals for over two decades, I am often called upon to make old things new again.

Recently I was honored to have the opportunity to restore the hammered copper doors at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Beaverton, Oregon. These doors are the creation of late Liturgical Artist and Sculptor, Ernst Schwidder (1931-1998) working the

building's world-renowned Architect, the late Pietro Belluschi (1899-1994). Judeo-Christian art is rich in signs and symbols that enhance our worship experience. Schwidder's sculptures grace the worship space and the outer courtyard at St. Matthew's with both power and tenderness.



Oberammergau 2020**4 Spaces left!****Passion of Christ Play****Retreat****Save the date(s)**

Sept. 2020 Jim Heck and Greg Davis are planning our retreat in the San Antonio Area - 3 Nights including meals \$185

And so, it is with the embossed copper doors at the church's entrance. They announce the coming of Christ and invite us to come in and worship Him. However, over 30-plus years these doors had darkened to a dreary dark brown, nearly obscuring the joyful messages and graphics. My challenge was to restore these doors to their former brilliance with three coats of clear sealer. As I worked on the doors, it was a personal blessing to see the graphics and the Bible quotes emerge under my hands, from muted to bright, from dark quiet to celebrational! The Schwidder Door Restoration Project is now complete for another 30-100 years.

**Burnished Copper Clad Doors & Signage****Main Entrance Church Door Restoration**

Christ The King Catholic Church, Pietro Belluschi, AIA+ ca 1980 - Milwaukie, Oregon

**Main Sanctuary - Crucifix Restoration Holy Cross Catholic****Church - Portland, Oregon****Mid-Century Large, Hand Carved Italian Sanctuary Crucifix**

For more restoration projects like these, please access: GregLewisStudios.net/art-restoration.html

Making the Case for Custom-Designed Liturgical Artwork

By James Hundt, RA; President of Foresight Architects

Although many building committees think of liturgical art as an “add-on” at the end of the project, our experience shows that it is not the best way to think about liturgical art. When we sit down at one of the early X4meetings with our clients for a new or renovated worship or prayer space, we ask them what consideration they have given to liturgical art. Of course, they usually have given some thought to liturgical furnishings, such as the altar, ambo and baptismal font, but rarely have they thought about the many liturgical art pieces that may be part of the final design. Talking about these art pieces early on in the process ensures that the proper environment will be created for these pieces and the money for them will be set aside in the project budget. For custom art, the design and fabrication process can actually be longer than that required for the building, so an early discussion also ensures that the pieces will be ready for the dedication day.

When we discuss liturgical art, there are several ways we begin the conversation. The first is to find out how important liturgical art is to the parish. We have seen several responses to this question, ranging from the desire to reuse artwork (including windows and statues) from other buildings to “We’ll let the Art & Environment Committee handle that when the church is finished.” Sometimes the creation of new art designed specifically for the community and the new space is of great importance to them. Regardless of where the conversation starts, we feel it is important to present to the committee the full range of options, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Built of Living Stones, the guideline of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on Art, Architecture and Worship, devotes an entire chapter to liturgical art and artists. It lists several requirements of liturgical art and its integration within the liturgical setting. Trying to achieve these goals with artwork from a catalog can often be very challenging. Custom design of the artwork provides several advantages:

1. The scale and materials of the artwork can be selected to harmonize with the scale and materials of the worship or devotional space.
2. The artwork can be designed to reflect the cultural identity of the parishioners.
3. The subject of the artwork is not limited to what is available through catalogs.

An excellent example of the use of custom-designed liturgical artwork is the Church of the Holy Spirit in Cortlandt Manor, NY – a project for which our firm served as the architect. The pastor was very supportive of original art in the renovated worship space, as he had a deep appreciation for original works of art. The church hired Artsphere Consulting, LLC, to assist in the commissioning of three separate works of art for the church: a full-scale statue of St. Zeno of Verona; fourteen stations of the cross, crafted from hand-painted stained glass and mosaic tiles; and the interior of the baptismal font basin, also designed in mosaic tile.

The pastor wanted a statue of St. Zeno so that the parishioners could learn more about the saint whose relics were contained in the new altar. Artsphere commissioned sculptors in Italy to design and fabricate the statue as well as an artist in New York to paint a contextual backdrop.

For the Stations of the Cross, the committee was divided between stock mosaic Stations and sculpted Stations that included more detail than the



mosaics. The art consultant suggested a stained glass artist in South Korea that created the perfect solution for them – hand painted stained glass figures, with exquisite detail, set in gold mosaic tiles. The end result gave the committee both the richness some of them were looking for and the detail the others wanted. The same artist also designed the mosaic tiles for the baptismal font. The consultant oversaw the installation of the tiles once they arrived at the church.

A primary responsibility of the art consultant was to make sure that all the artwork stayed within the church's rather modest budget and to provide a bridge between the client and the artists so that the art fulfilled their liturgical goals.

Once the church was rededicated, the artwork instantly became a source of great pride for the parishioners. Because they had been involved in the creation of the artwork, it took on even greater significance and importance as sacred art that would enhance their prayer and worship experience, thereby fulfilling the primary goal of all liturgical art.

Statue: Photo by Randall Perry Photography.
Others: Photo by Artsphere Consulting, LLC





Wiktor Szostalo's sculpture, St. Francis Preaching to the Birds, is a metaphor for St. Francis's practice of preaching to everyone regardless of their station in life.



Szostalo's sculpture was created almost entirely of stainless steel. The glass birds catch the wind and ring chimes "singing their approval" of St. Francis's homily. The sculpture was commissioned by Old Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, California; it was installed and dedicated recently.

Dear ACLS Members, I received this email from Ken Griesemer last week and wanted to pass it along. Please keep Bill and his family in your prayers.

Friends,

This afternoon, I received a call from Elizabeth Devereaux who had just talked to Bill Beard in Colorado Springs. As you know, Bill and I worked together in the trenches of Catholic church architecture and consulting for five years in Bill Brown's office. He is mentor and a dear friend of 28 years. He is about 70 and has always had more energy and passion than almost anyone I have known.



Early this summer, I found out that he was facing some mysterious health issues. When Debbie and I were on our way back from Denver in mid-July we stopped at a rehab facility a couple times to see him. During our first visit, he was like I had never seen him before and he was very discouraged about his health. He seemed like he was ready to give up. The next day, he seemed better, and I left hopeful that things would turn around as a new very specialized medication was to arrive in a few days. (See photo below.) A week later the reports were encouraging.

Friday, just before a weekend retreat, I got an e-mail from another friend who worked with us back in the mid-1990's. She relayed an update from Bill's wife with a diagnosis that sounded very complicated. She said Bill would be in the hospital for two weeks of treatment for GPA (a rare blood disease): Granulomatosis with polyangiitis. He has had many troubling symptoms over the last few months, and the treatments sound quite invasive.

Elizabeth spoke to Bill today and told me he didn't sound good at all. She said he told her he didn't think he was going to make it. This is very upsetting for all of us who know and love Bill and have been close to him for many years.

Please lift up our friend Bill in this urgent time of need and pray for strength and healing, for peace and openness to God's will.

Elizabeth Devereaux also asked if it would be possible to put out a blast e-mail to the ACLS membership asking for prayers for Bill.

Thanks for reading. Thanks for your prayers.

Ken

ACLS President's Letter
Fall, 2019

Warmest greetings to all our members throughout the world! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer with at least a little time off for enjoying yourself and the company of friends and family. The board has continued to meet (virtually) throughout the summer, as there are so many activities happening and we don't want to fall behind!

The biggest news is that we have teamed up with LTP for a 3-webinar series focused on *Built of Living Stones*. This is a significant achievement that the Webinar Committee has been working on for some time now. It will allow for us to share our expertise with a much wider audience. The seminars will be in the first three months of next year and will be in addition to our regular webinars so there is double the opportunity for continuing education in the first quarter of 2020! I hope I will see many of you there. More details to follow....

Speaking of 2020, for those of you in the process of budgeting your expenses for next year, please keep in mind that we are planning an ACLS retreat for September 10-13, 2020 at the Omega Retreat Center in Boerne, TX (north of San Antonio). The total cost of room & board for the three days is estimated at \$185 per person. Although final plans have not yet been made, there are possibilities of tours of stained glass or a foundry and enough churches for a church tour if we want. (These would be at an additional cost, to be determined.) The retreat will be a completely different gathering than the Oberammergau trip so if you are able to attend both events, that would be great!

Finally, the Website Committee continues to work hard on the website. We have hired a new consultant who is working at troubleshooting current problems and making some improvements to the site. He will also be the "go-to" person for future website issues, easily reachable via an email link on the updated website.

Those are just the highlights of the board's activities but the things I am most excited about and wanted to share with all of the members. I hope the next few months bring you great opportunities to share your wonderful gifts with the world.

In peace,



President

Website Photos

**We are working on the website! Stay tuned to find out when you can add information soon.
Thank you for your patience.**

Send your Member News to be included in the next Newsletter to:

Shelley@ShelleyKolmanSmith.com

We'd like to know more about you and your work.