

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



WELCOMES YOU

The Church of the Holy Communion is an Episcopal parish celebrating the Eucharist in a very Traditional style. We have an Open Altar and invite all Baptized Christians to join us at Christ's Table.

Accepting all people, Sharing God's love, Teaching God's ways

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Elizabeth Gordon Meade
Sunday Worship - 10:45am Mass
Coffee Hour - 9:45am

320 Broad Street—Lake Geneva, WI 262-248-3522

Holy Communion also welcomes Weddings of all Faiths

Guidebook Photography Gifted by:
JOE HUDLETT PHOTOGRAPHY
414.467.5895

www.joehudlett.zenfolio.com

joe_hudlett@sbcglobal.net



CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION HISTORIC PHOTO GUIDE

Established—1844



Building—1880

www.holycommunionlakegeneva.com

Holy Communion Episcopal Church is one of the oldest Episcopal parishes in Wisconsin. Established in Bloomfield Township in 1844, the parish moved to Lake Geneva and in 1857 purchased the site the church stands on today. In 1856, Mrs. Dodge of Chicago donated \$1,000 for the building of a new Gothic style church. That is the first recorded donation for this building. However, because the budget totaled \$12,000—it was twenty-four years before the cornerstone was laid on October 28, 1880. That same \$1,000 in 1856 would be valued at about \$28,000 adjusted for inflation to 2019.

A time capsule is installed in the S.E. corner (behind S.E. buttress), it contains these items: Holy Bible; Book of Common Prayer; Hymnal; list of Bishops of Diocese of Wisconsin; a list of Rectors; list of wardens & vestrymen; officers of government (national, state, local); photographs of: Bishop Edward Welles, Fr. Richard Kerfoot, wardens & vestrymen; copies of: “The Church Man”, village papers, Milwaukee papers, and “History of Lake Geneva”, by Simmon.



In September of 1880, newspaper *The Herald* is quoted stating “The church will be a very handsome one, and will be built of stone. It will cost \$12,000, according to the plans drawn by Architect Jenny, of Chicago”. Then on October 1, 1880 it is noted in the church’s timeline: New church “will be located about 12 feet from the present Church, 20 feet from the rectory...” on “Locke’s corner just west of the Baptist church”. Then on October 27, 1880 the same timeline notes: Cornerstone and metal time capsule laid on Saints Simon & Jude’s day, at Lake Geneva current structure location at the SE corner. Built for \$12,000 not including furnishings. “Money is in the bank for the full expense”.

The Church was built of granite boulders collected locally, split and laid up irregularly to display a clean front with the effect of changing colors and design. The building was designed by Treat & Foltz, Chicago architects. The contractor was Austin Moody. Six years later, Mrs. George Sturges gifted the church to enable the Northwest Corner addition of a sacristy & choir room.



On June 7, 1882 – the new church building was consecrated by Bishop Edward Randolph Welles, SJ “...one of the largest crowds ever assembled at Lake Geneva. A special train was necessary to carry the people from Chicago and every road into Lake Geneva was crowded with vehicles from the country and surrounding towns. Thirty priests assisted Bishop Welles”. The temporary church structure built on the north lot of Broad Street in 1857 will be used as a Guild Hall (until razed in August 1964).

Woodwork throughout the Church of the Holy Communion, from its structural timbers to its sanctuary furniture is all native oak. The altars, the pews, the prayer desks, the organ—everything about this church speaks of oak. While the high altar and the reredos had a fruitwood staining in the mid-1990's, they too are true oak. It was the most plentiful native hardwood at the time the church was built and the architects and artisans used it to their advantage.

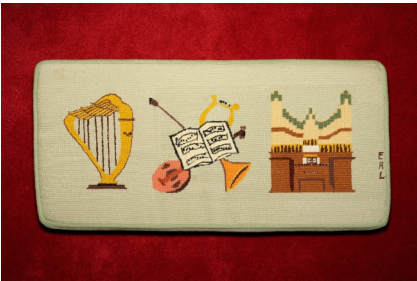


THE COMMON KNEELER:

One of the most vivid symbols of the Bible is the grapevine. The grapes symbolize the wine of the Holy Communion. The engraving, IHS on the silver chalice are the first three letters of IHSUS, the name of Jesus in Greek. The Prayer Book is open to the Ten Commandments.

THE TRINITY KNEELER:

The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, signifying that Jesus is the Beginning and End of all things. Chi Rho (XP) are the first two letters in the Title Christ, representing Christ as the reigning and triumphant Messiah. The fish is the symbol of Christ and Baptism. The Open Hands portray God the Father and His creative power in the world. The Descending Dove reminds us of the presence of the Holy Spirit.



THE MUSIC KNEELER:

The Golden Harp is the symbol of David and the Book of Psalms and all music in the honor of God. The lute, trumpet and lyre, are the instruments of Biblical times. The Pipe Organ symbolizes the continued praise the Church offers to the Glory of God.

THE APOSTLE’S KNEELER:

The angel represents St. Matthew who presents Christ to us as King. Next, an interpretation of the Celtic cross with the circle of Eternal Life. The Chi Rho symbol of our Lord is in the center of the cross. The winged lion is the symbol of St. Mark representing the majesty of Christ. (The worker of this kneeler counted 66,615 stitches for its completion.)



THE BISHOP’S CUSHION:

This shows the Episcopal Shield on the left. The center design is the Diocese of Milwaukee Bishop’s Emblem, and to the right is our own Holy Communion Episcopal Church emblem.

THE DESCENDING DOVE CUSHION:

The Descending Dove symbolizes God, the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus at His baptism.



The kneelers at the altar rail were made by the women of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) and presented to the church in 1991. They were a labor of love that took nine years by the twelve needlepointers, most of whom had to learn the art from scratch. The project was chaired by Dottie Swanson who also designed many of the cushions. Each cushion has a sponsor and the cost was also shared by sponsors and given in memory of loved ones.



THE CHRISTMAS KNEELER:
Mary with the Baby Jesus, the Nativity Angel, robed in red to symbolize Joy, the three Wise Men, the Star, and a shepherd with a lamb.



THE APOSTLE'S KNEELER:
The Winged Ox symbolizes St. Luke, Christ's sacrifice and atonement. The golden cross inset with jewels is a depiction of the Processional Cross used every Sunday. The gold is the symbol of pure light and the rubies of the wounds Christ suffered during crucifixion. St. John is seen in the Eagle representing the ascension and divinity of Christ.

The five loaves & two fish represent the boy's lunch that was used to feed the 5,000. The Fish symbolize Christ & the loaves—the Bread of Life. The lion & lamb lying down together represent the peaceable kingdom that will prevail under Christ's rule. Noah's Ark is an ancient baptismal symbol. The Dove with olive branch means the waters had receded from the earth, the rainbow—God's Covenant with Noah.



THE NATURE KNEELER:
"Wildflowers, God's own needlepoint." Here are some of the wildflowers of Wisconsin. The butterfly symbolizes resurrected life. The stag symbol is taken from Psalm 42:1, "as the deer longs for the water brooks, so my soul for you, O God." Thus it is the symbol of Solitude and Purity of Life. The trees are the sentinels that once stood around this church — the oak leaves and acorn for Faith, Remembrance and Endurance.

Chief Big Foot stands looking over Lake Geneva. Williams Bay and Yerkes Observatory, Church of the Holy Communion and the Lady of the Lake are also depicted. At the right is Fr. McNamara, the first rector of this church.



THE EASTER KNEELER:
The lilies symbolize the Glory of the Risen Lord and new eternal life. The crown and cross symbolize the reward of the faithful in life after death. It was inspired by the stained glass above the High Altar.



THE HISTORY KNEELER:

The church windows were largely given as memorials and some were designed by the architect himself and executed in Munich Germany by the famed Fratu Mayer Company. The windows are referenced by number, beginning in the sanctuary and progressing clockwise around the church.



Window #1
"Jesus Wept." given by Helen and Nathaniel Fairbanks in 1881, in memory of Graham Fairbanks; born January 28, ad 1867, died September 16, ad 1867.



Window #3
"It is Well." given by Helen and Nathaniel Fairbanks in 1881, in memory of Wallace Graham, Lt. United States Navy. Born December 22, ad 1843, died March 6, ad 1876.



Window #5
"Blessed are the Pure in Heart." given anonymously in memory of the Reverend John McNamara's children. Their names have never been painted on.

Window #6
A descending dove at the window peak. The window is not dedicated.



Window #2
Sanctuary High Altar, "Ye do show the Lord's Death till He Come." given in memory of James de Koven, D.D. Priest. His name was never painted on the window. 1881.



Window #4
"Lillies." made by the Milwaukee Mirror and Art Glass Works. It was given by parishioners and their friends on April 19, 1908, in memory of the Rev. Isaac Marks Jr; 13th Rector who entered into paradise 1845-1907.





Window #7

Frosted glass only with stained glass borders. The window is not dedicated.

Window #8

"For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." made by the Mayers Company - Munich and London, it was given in memory of Henry Lord Johnston, in 1881.



Window #9—left half

"Blessed are the Dead." given in memory of Dr. Phillip Maxwell and Jerusha Maxwell, in 1881 by an unknown donor.

Window #9 - Right Half

"He Giveth His Beloved Sheep." Given in by Dr. Phillip Maxwell and his wife Jerusha, in memory of their children, Ophelia Maxwell Walter and Annie M. Walter, in 1881.



Window #10

North Alcove Entrance.

The window is not dedicated.



Window #11

South alcove Entrance.

The window is not dedicated.



Carved Credence Table

Was given in 1881 by the Reverend John McNamara in memory of his teacher, William Augustus Muhlenberg, D.D. Priest.

The Cathedral - or Bishops Chair

Was given in 1881, in memory of the Right Reverend William Whittingham, 4th Bishop of Maryland, by an anonymous donor.



Rector's Chair

The caned, heavily carved dark wood Rectors Chair probably dates to this same era and is not in the church records. This may be one piece of furniture that isn't oak.



Acolyte Prayer Desks

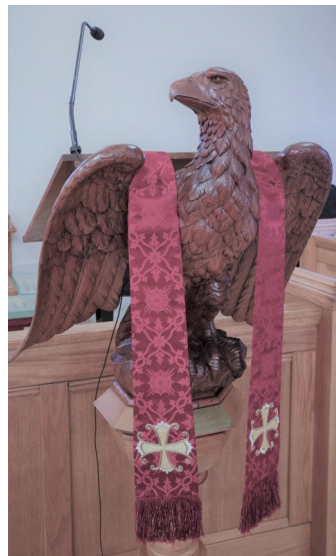
The three acolyte prayer desks are also dated 1881. Each bears a brass memorial plate. The first is in memory of the Right Reverend Jackson Kemper, D.D.; 1st Bishop of Wisconsin.

The second is in memory of the Right Reverend John Henry Whitehouse; Second Bishop of Illinois. The third is in memory of the Right Reverend John Barrett Kerfoot, D.D - First Bishop of Pittsburgh. Bishop Kerfoot was an uncle of the Rector at Holy Communion from 1876 to 1886.



Eagle Lectern

The hand carved eagle lectern was given in memory of the Reverend Octavious Perinchief, Priest. It is dated 1881.





Altar Rail—In 1881 the Reverend Richard J. Kerfoot, who was the rector at that time, hand carved the altar rail that is still in the church today.



Columbarium

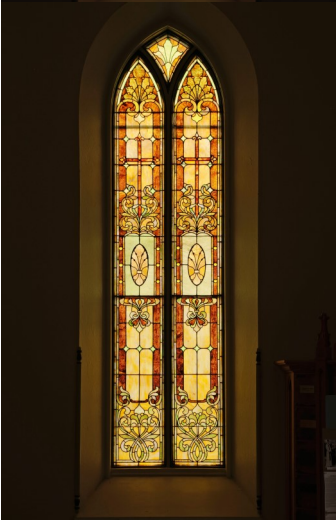
In 1994 the Columbarium was given by Mrs. A.M. Bader in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Pobanz.

Baptismal Font

The undated 3-piece stone font with a carved oak cover may have been transported from Bloomfield (around 1880) for the opening of this church. It's as good a theory as any. It does bear this memorial on its base. "In Memoriam, Julia Floyd Sturges."



Stations of The Cross—Representing Christ's path to Calvary, these Oberammergau wood carvings were anonymously given to the church in 1957. Oberammergau is a municipality in the district of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Bavaria, Germany. The village is known as the home of a long tradition of wood carving. The roots of Oberammergau's wood carvings go back to the Middle Ages. A manuscript dated 1111 first mentioned Rottenbucher Monks who brought "...the Ammergau art of carving small household goods out of wood..." to the area of Berchtesgaden. The carving of religious figures most probably has its origins in the Pilgrimage to Ettal.



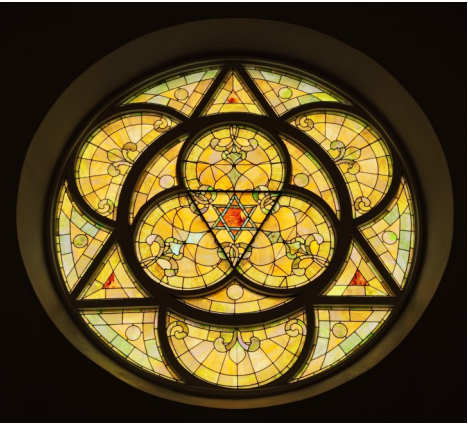
Window #12

South Wall - East

Given by Father Marks in memory of his wife. 1881.

Window #13

Trinity Rose Window—three circles connected by bands which form an equilateral triangle and symbolize the union of the Holy Trinity. Data on the window's origin is missing' or inaccessible at the time of this writing. On January 23, 2005, major restoration work on the window is given by Dr. Charles Bower and Dr. Lloyd Evans, in memory of their grandparents, Elsie Bower, Olive Schuster, and Annie Wills.



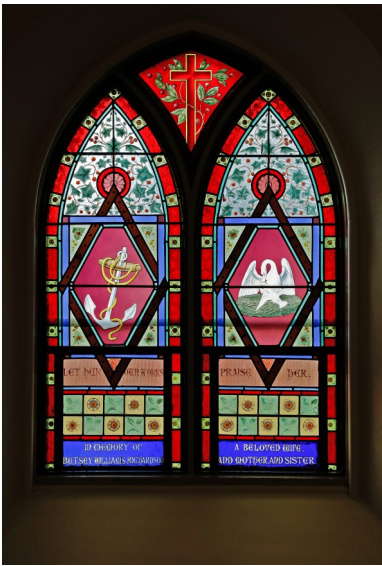
Window #14

South Wall - West

A twin to window #12, it is also given by Father Marks, in memory of his daughter.

Window #15

"Anchor and Dove." Given in memory of Betsy William Richard, beloved wife and mother-in 1881.



Window #16 - Left Side

"He shall Gather the Lambs with His Arm." given in memory of Kate Louise Keyes. Born December 6, 1873. Died October 8, 1879 a child of five years.

Window #16 - Right Side

"Of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven." made by Mayer & Company, it is given in memory of Frances Allen and her daughter, Clara E., in 1881.



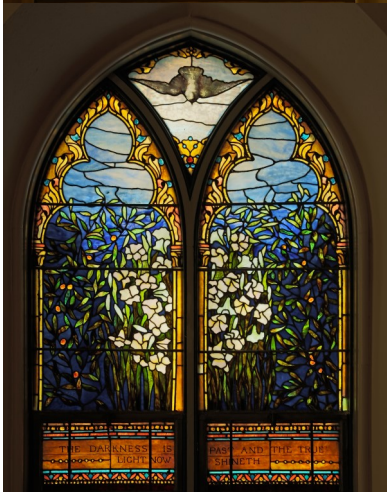


Window #17

"Forsake me not when my Strength Faleth." given in memory of Charles Henry Gay, 1881. It was made by Mayer & Company of Munich and London.

Window #18

"Whosoever Liveth in Me Shall Never Die." given in memory of Ursula Butler Marks, who entered into life February 26, 1896.



Window #19

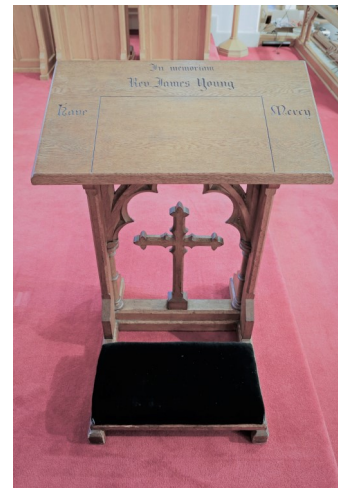
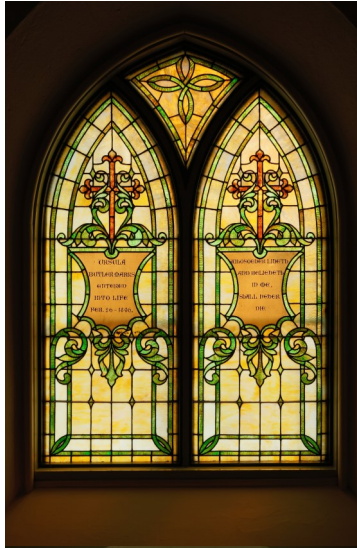
"The Darkness is Past and the True Light Now Shineth." an unsigned Louis Comfort Tiffany window, it was never dedicated.

Window #20

A clear leaded glass window in the sacristy lobby. It is not dedicated.

Our Organ—OPUS 1144

On June 12, 1883, Mrs. George (Mary) Delafield Sturges gifted the church with a Hook and Hastings Tracker Action Pipe Organ. The gift was a memorial to her son, Albert. The organ consists of two ranks and seventeen stops and the cabinetry is handsomely engraved over the keyboards. To-day it is one of the few remaining functional Hook and Hastings tracker organs in the Midwest.



Rector's Prayer Desk

The Rectors hand-engraved prayer desk is recorded as being given in 1881 in memory of the Reverend James Young.

Pulpit

On April 16, 1933, Mrs. Mary Gridley Bell gave the church the pulpit that exists today.



Crucifix

In 1957 – A carved Crucifix originally owned by St. John's mission and given to Holy Communion in 1915, was hung above the chapel altar.

The High Altar Cross

given in 1881 by an unknown donor in memory of James De Koven, D.D. Priest.



Altar Missal Stand

Was given in 1881 by the sisters of St. Mary, Martyrs of Memphis.

Brass Paschal Candle Stand

Was given by the Altar Guild on November 1, 1941. At some time after 1972 an accompanying brass advent wreath frame is purchased or given.

