



Lake Nokomis
Lutheran Church

The advantages of orienting the sanctuary toward the courtyard

by Steve Schou

Steve Schou is a retired pastor, was a member of recent Call Committee, and a current member of LNL's three-church initiative team.

With the sanctuary oriented in a semi-circle facing the courtyard, worship no longer takes on the appearance of a show where the pastor is the main attraction performing her ministry for us. Instead we are reminded that **we are worshipping as a community of faith.**

We all possess gifts of ministry, each one important in our own way. We are literally gathered around the baptismal font and the communion table, for these are the signs that we are called to ministry and nourished in that ministry by Christ.

At Lake Nokomis Lutheran, we identify ourselves as an inclusive church. As we gather for worship around the baptismal font and communion table we see how each one of us is included in this fellowship. And we see that we are part of something bigger than our congregation, for as we look past the communion table at the trees and flowers, birds and squirrels, rain and snow outside the windows, we see how we are a part of God's creation. The whole creation is blessed as we are, and testifies to God's grace.

We are called to be a community of faith in the world, testifying to Christ who holds all things together in his divine love. Changing the way we look at one another and the world outside the walls of the church as we gather for worship will, with the help of God, allow us see Christ's presence more clearly.