

## Sanctuary renewal dedication on Sunday, May 3

**Sunday, May 3, 2009**, we will have a festive dedication of the sanctuary renovation, at worship services **at 8:30 am & 11 am**, with Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop Peter Rogness preaching and with music by a brass quintet from St. Olaf College. A special celebration, giving thanks for craftspeople, designers, donors, especially Joe Ruzichka, our principal donor, and the building committee will take place in between services, at **9:45 am that day**.

Pilgrim's neo-Gothic sanctuary was built in 1939, and this is the first major renewal of the space. The chancel platform has been brought forward to the crossing of transepts and nave, and the altar railing – and all parts of the worship space – will now be accessible. Flexibility and environmental commitments have shaped the work, and sound and lighting have been improved as well. Care has been given to maintain the historic character of the space, while enhancing the place of the word, table, font, and assembly. MCL Architects of St. Paul have guided the work.

In this Easter season, we welcome into our worship space new chairs, made from our old pews, now offer great seating in our two transept areas, on the east and west sides of the sanctuary. The new choir chairs in the front of the chancel provide a new location for the choirs. The new altar railing, modeled after our old railing, and the needle-pointed kneeler cushions from the old altar railing are beautifully incorporated into the new kneeling cushions. This new altar railing is totally removable, allowing for flexibility in the ways we use the space. And we also welcome a new bowl for the baptismal font, which makes more visible the abundant waters of baptism.

It's been an amazing journey – this journey of renewal, renewal of this sacred space for grace that is Gospel-shaped. The renewed Pilgrim sanctuary and the community that gathers in it is held in the cruciform shape of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – in a space with four seating areas that form a cross and with people facing one another in the circular shape of eternity, gathered around word and sacrament. Thanks be to God for the gift of this Pilgrim space for grace, that in this season and for generations yet to come will gather God's children young and old to hear, proclaim, sing, and taste the wonders of God's love. It is as our Pilgrim Easter season theme states: "God's promise renewed and unending."