

Christ Lutheran Day School

Upchurch Architects, Inc. was most fortunate to have the role of Architect and be part of the process to build a new Day School for Christ Lutheran Church in Brenham, Texas. The School opened in February 2005 and has been well received by the Community, Church, teachers and children.

We started with the idea that the school, although closely connected to Christ Lutheran Church, should be built away from the Church building to allow for future growth of the Church. As well, this approach would allow for the creation of a building that would have it's own identity as a Day School.

The building location was agreed upon and the design work proceeded to create a Day School.

The design is first and foremost about the education and care of children. It was our intent to design a building that would be identifiable to the children, a place they could understand, a place they would want to attend every day, and a place that would support and add to the education being provided by the teachers and the School's programs.



The building is about color and light, it is about offering different experiences and ways to look at things. It is also about connecting with the world outside, for that is where these children are going.

As one approaches the building entrance, an image of a "little red school house" can be seen. This image seemed fitting for this rural community with strong connections with its past. To the right of the entrance one will also see a blue cylindrical shaped room with a turret and flag above. That is the Discovery Room, a special room for learning outside the classrooms, shared by all age groups. The other blocks of color are classrooms, again highlighted so that the children could relate to their rooms.

Inside one will find hallways that are open and easy to understand. This is important for staff as well for seeing the children outside of classrooms. The classrooms are highlighted and given a special identification according to each age level.

Inside each classroom there is open area for learning centers. There is also a large window – it is their window to the world.

In the 1 year old through 4 year old classrooms, the windows have a ledge for activities. The infant rooms have windows that go to the floor, which is where the infants are.

The Lunch Room serves as a space for larger groups to come together to eat or play on a rainy day. Again, windows are important to keeping this space a happy one, even if it is cloudy and cold.

As a last note, there is a sidewalk that leads from the school back to the Church for bringing the children up to Chapel on Thursdays, connecting the School to the congregation and faith that made the project possible.



