

## Art and Architecture

The members of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church have always held their commitment to living according to the teachings of Jesus Christ as their first and greatest priority. They have also placed a high value on creating an inspiring and welcoming house of worship to serve as their church home. Many of the works of art and architectural elements at Salem have been donated by generous members, sometimes as memorials to loved ones.

### ASCENSION PAINTING

The painting is a meaningful representation of Our Lord's Ascension. Its colors portray heavenly gold reflecting on tones of earth. The contrast of blue sky and Jesus' robes upon the concave surface of the chancel gives a three-dimensional appearance. Jesus' right hand is raised in benediction, blessing those who gather at Salem for worship. His left hand sends worshippers forth, to be his witnesses, loving him as they serve others.

Painted by Charles Mente (1857-1933) about 1908, it was given in memory of Margaret Reich by her husband, Henry. The Christ figure was refurbished in 2006 at a cost of \$12,000. It was temporarily removed for repair and cleaning and reinstalled with a fiberglass sheeting to seal the plaster wall under the canvas, thus preventing future cracking as the sanctuary, built in 1903, continues to settle. The surrounding canvas has been repainted several times through the years. The work was rededicated on Ascension Sunday 2006.