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## “Let There Be Light”

The Bible is replete with references to light. David sang about light. Jesus taught about light. Light, like music, is capable of stirring the soul. And yet, light is probably one of the most overlooked and misunderstood design elements in any church facility. Not long ago lighting design options were limited. Windows were narrow because of the limited span borne by stone lintels. Stained glass diffused light and reduced the painful contrast between the window and the dark interior of the church.

Today we have an endless, if mind-numbing, variety of lighting options. And the consideration of lighting fixtures goes beyond cost, into the areas of heat and sound generation, maintenance, operating costs, light color, and more. Some churches have eliminated natural lighting entirely and are able to control every sparkle, every shade, for its peak effect. This is particularly useful for churches that videotape services, use projection screens, or offer dramatic presentations. And the lighting considerations are not limited to ceilings. Lighting can be used for dramatic effect in stair risers, under bathroom vanities, or above wall niches. Furthermore, some of the most beautiful lighting designs are employed on the exterior of the building to highlight architectural features, landscaping, and walkways.

Since it is a daunting task, the church may want to seek help from their architect, builder, and lighting supply contractors to explore the many possibilities offered by today’s “exciting lighting” products.

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