St. Mark’s Lutheran Church is a congregation that offers a wide variety of worship opportunities and styles. As the project began, the church had one worship space in which they were conducting Traditional, Blended, Contemporary and “High Impact” services. The room contained theater style stadium seating, large areas of carpeted flooring, sound absorbing wall panels and curtains, video screens, and a mechanical action organ that had been moved from the congregation’s former church building. Though the effort was made via architectural detailing and A/V system design to meet the needs of the varying worship and music styles, the room met the needs of none well.

It was decided to create two separate worship spaces on the Church campus so that each space could be designed and detailed to serve their respective worship and music styles with excellence. A new building was constructed for traditional worship, and the existing space was re-designed and outfitted for the contemporary services.

The new building, “Worship Center II”, is a long, tall, “center aisle” room with hard surface flooring throughout, sound reflective and diffusing reinforced gypsum board walls, and a metal ceiling deck that features sound reflective “clouds” above the Chancel and Choir spaces. Speakers are carefully located and aimed to deliver speech to the congregation seating area, but to avoid unwanted sound reflections from other building surfaces. All A/V systems were designed by Dave Hosbach of DSH Audio-Visions. The rear wall of the room is equipped to contain a retractable curtain so that the room’s reverberation period can be altered and “tuned” to accommodate light attendance, or occasional contemporary music use. The maximum Reverberation Period in the room is slightly above 2.0 Seconds, achieving excellent conditions for congregational singing, choral and organ music, and for speech clarity.

The 50+ voice choir is seated in the chancel on tiered hardwood risers that have interior treatment to suppress foot-fall noise. Twin organ chambers flank the center Chancel window.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
8300 C Avenue, N.E.
Marion, Iowa 52302-9362

Architects: Novak Design Group, PLC
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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St. Mark’s Lutheran Church  
Marion, Iowa

Acoustic, Organ, and Sound System Design Consultation

The organ installed into the chambers is the restored E.M. Skinner three manual and pedal, 26 rank instrument, Opus 695, built in 1928 for St. John’s Lutheran in the Bronx, New York. The organ was available for sale due to the closure of St. John’s congregation. Skinner organ Opus 695 was restored and reinstalled into the new St. Mark’s Church by the J.L. Weiler Organ Company of Chicago in conjunction with assistance from the Organ Clearing House.

**Great Organ**
- 8' First Open Diapason
- 8' Second Open Diapason
- 8' Clarabella
- 4' Principal
- 8' French Horn (within Swell)
- Chimes

**Swell Organ**
- 16' Bourdon
- 8' Open Diapason
- 8' Rohr Flute
- 8' Salicional
- 8' Voix Celeste
- 8' Flute Celeste II
- 4' Octave
- 4' Flute Triangulaire
- III Mixture
- 16' Contra Oboe
- 8' Trumpet
- 8' Vox Humana
- Tremolo

**Pedal Organ**
- 16' Open Diapason
- 16' Bourdon
- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt (Swell Bourdon)
- 8' Flute (Pedal Bourdon)
- 8' Echo Lieblich (Swell Bourdon)
- 16' Oboe (Swell)
- Chimes
- Full Couplers and Combination Action

**Choir Organ**
- 8' Concert Flute
- 8' Dulciana
- 8' Gamba
- 8' Clarinet
- Tremolo

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