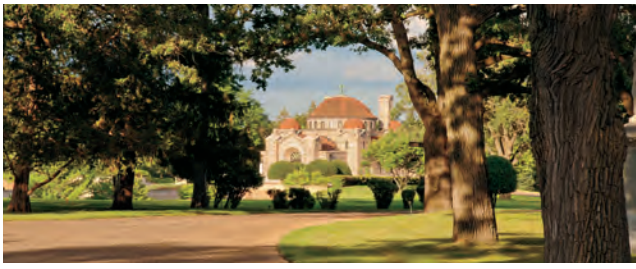




Lakewood Memorial Chapel

A Visitor's Guide





Welcome to LAKEWOOD

Lakewood is a serene haven in the heart of Minneapolis' renowned Chain of Lakes — a place to pay tribute, remember and reflect. Since 1871, Lakewood's 250 acres of urban memorial parkland have served as a community gathering place and a chronicle of our region's traditions, cultures and people. A history keeper and a thought leader, Lakewood honors its roots as a landmark cemetery while reimagining its role in modern life through thoughtfully designed events, experiences and spaces.

Welcome to the MEMORIAL CHAPEL

"If this chapel were somewhere in Europe, thousands of Americans would visit it each year. Never have we seen anything to equal it in this country — not even the famous mosaics of the Library of Congress at Washington impressed us so greatly."

The Memorial Chapel is the centerpiece of the cemetery and a priceless architectural treasure — the most perfect example of Byzantine mosaic art in the United States. When it was completed in 1910, it was the only building in America with an authentic mosaic interior. Through the years, visitors have been astonished to find such an outstanding architectural jewel in the heart of the Midwest. Many experts now believe that a work of such magnitude could not be recreated at any price today, as artisans possessing the necessary skills have passed into history.

We invite you to explore this beautiful building using this pamphlet as your guide. We have included details of the chapel's history and brief explanations of the meaning behind many of the special symbols and details in its design. But perhaps most importantly, take the time to appreciate the chapel in your own way to experience its soothing beauty.

THE DESIGN

The very first chapel on Lakewood's grounds was a temporary wooden structure, built shortly after the cemetery's founding in 1871. In 1890, that was replaced by a modest stone building ... yet a more grand and ambitious chapel remained the long-term goal.

In 1906, Lakewood's trustees formed a committee to guide the chapel development and solicit design concepts from leading architects. At the board's request, the committee agreed to include a crematory



in the chapel design — a most unusual and progressive idea at the time. From the beginning, the trustees set high standards for the chapel and expected the very best quality in artistry and materials.

In March 1908, the Lakewood Building Committee selected Harry Wild Jones, a prominent Minneapolis architect, to design the chapel. Jones had already designed many well-known Minneapolis landmarks, including Butler Square and the Washburn Park water tower, and he modeled his winning design for the chapel after the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. In June 1908, the construction contract was approved for \$59,440, and work began in August.

In 1909, Lakewood's Board of Trustees commissioned New York interior designer Charles Lamb to complete the chapel interior at a cost of \$25,000. To complement the chapel's structure, he suggested a Byzantine mosaic design based on the interior of the San Marco Cathedral in Venice.



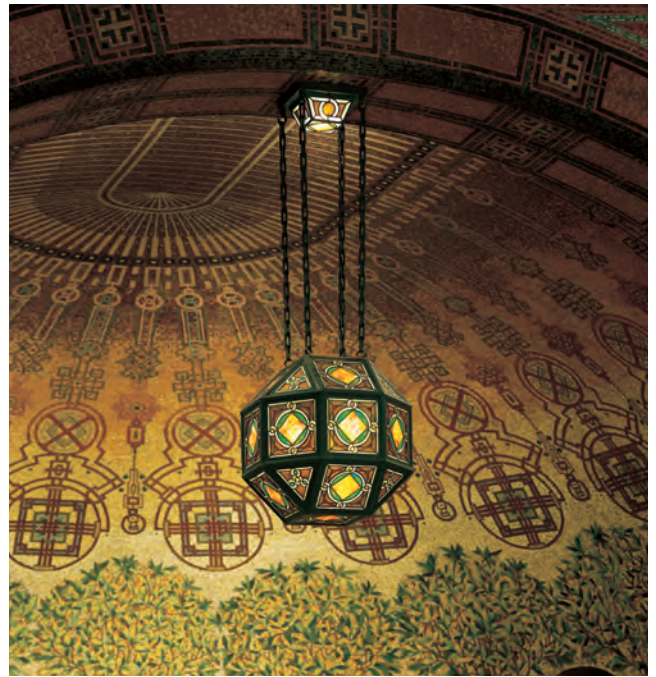
THE EXTERIOR & ENTRANCE

From a distance, you can see the chapel's distinctive dome and roof covered with Gustavino and Spanish roll tile. As you approach, you see the red St. Cloud granite walls and front landscaping of beige granite.

The chapel entrance includes double doors of solid bronze, embellished with ancient religious symbols. Alpha and Omega symbolize the beginning and the end, an Alisee Patee cross represents the four evangelists, and a peacock symbolizes resurrection and immortality. The doors are capped with a stained glass transom in the Art Nouveau style.

THE INTERIOR

Entering the chapel for the first time is a breathtaking and awe-inspiring experience. Under Charles Lamb's precise direction, an artisan from Lamb Studios laid out the chapel interior design on a flat surface, then built molds corresponding to the building's walls and curves. Lamb traveled to Rome to enlist the services of six of Italy's most highly accomplished mosaic artists, who had just completed a project at the Vatican. Working in Venice, they created more than 10 million mosaic pieces, called tesserae, from marble, colored stone and glass fused with gold and silver. The tiles, each no larger than a fingernail, were attached to gummed cloth and shipped to Minneapolis. The artists themselves arrived in the summer of 1909 and painstakingly assembled the masterpiece inside the chapel.

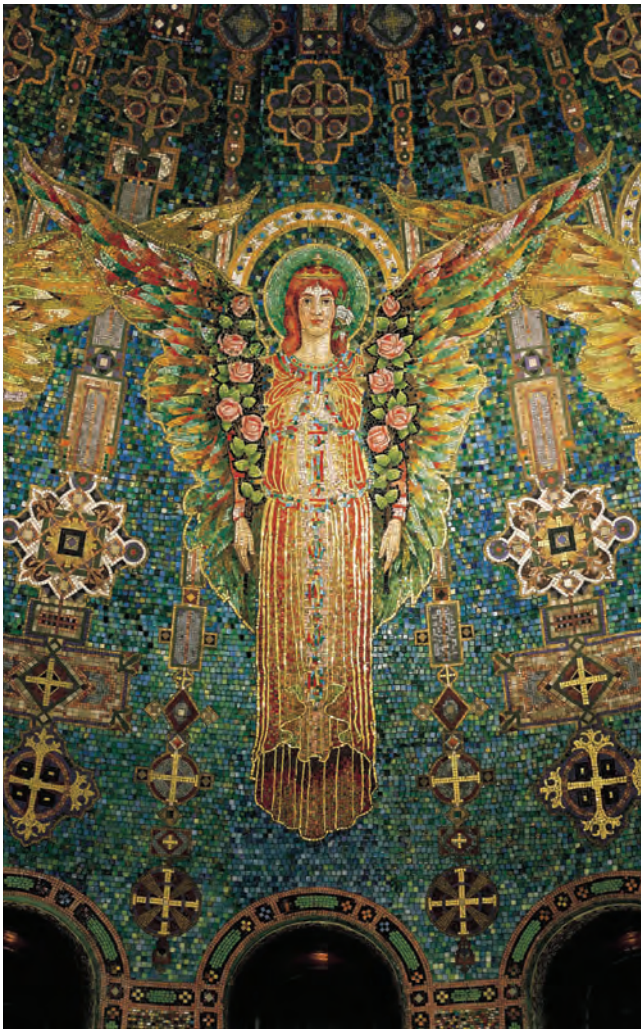


THE DOME

The dome is 40 feet high and ringed with 24 stained glass windows in the Art Nouveau style. The windows, set in copper, serve as a sundial, telling the time of day and the season. Twelve angels adorn the dome, relating to the Old Testament's 12 sons of Jacob, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 gates to the Holy City and the 12 disciples of Christ in the New Testament. The four angels holding red roses are positioned at the four points of the compass, symbolizing the four corners of the earth. The colors of the gowns also have symbolic meanings — red for life, yellow for death, blue for resurrection. The fully extended wings of the angels symbolize their protective spirit. The angels have no visible feet because, according to lore, they never touch the earth.

If you stand beneath the chapel dome and begin to speak, you'll notice the effect of Harry Wild Jones' architectural plan. The acoustics are so nearly perfect that speakers in the center or front of the chapel can be heard clearly throughout the room without microphones.





Four large mosaic figures adorn the side walls below the dome. They represent Love, Hope, Memory and Faith. Originally, the side walls were simply to have been covered with multicolored mosaic tiles. But Lamb convinced the Lakewood board that “figures of heroic size” to “personify the virtues” would be the crowning touch. If you look closely at the faces, you’ll see how well the artisans were able to blend the colored tiles. The four figures are based on paintings by Ella Condie Lamb, a noted portrait artist of the time and wife of Charles Lamb.

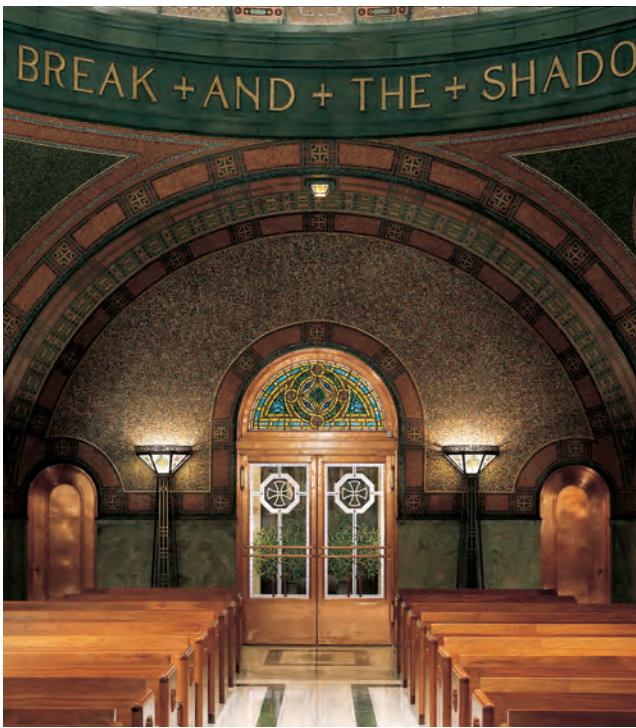
THE ALCOVE

The alcove at the front of the chapel is lined with entwined mosaic olive trees, whose fruit is known for healing properties. The changing colors in the leaves represent the cycle of life from spring to winter. The mosaic sky behind the trees is graduated from daytime to nighttime to subtly emphasize the same theme.



In 1910, the Building Committee debated whether to extend the row of olive trees over the arches to the left and right inside the alcove, even though the trees over the arches would have no trunks, or to stop the trees before the arches so all trees would stand complete. If you stand in the alcove, you can see that Lamb’s desire to continue the scene prevailed.

Below the olive trees stand the pulpit and a chair, both carved from white Grecian marble and inlaid with gold and blue mosaics. They are similar to the chairs of the four mosaic figures below the dome. Lamb intended that they draw visitors’ eyes to the front of the chapel.



RESTORATION, RENOVATIONS & UPDATES

When the chapel was completed, all involved were tremendously pleased with the results. "Those who have inspected the Chapel as a whole are carried away with the work," wrote George Brackett, chairman of the Building Committee, in October 1910.

Today, the Lakewood Chapel stands virtually unchanged in appearance from the day it was completed. In the late 1930s, new entrance doors and exterior railings, a vestibule and a Skinner pipe organ were added, although the vestibule was later removed. In 1987, repairs were made to the roof and clerestory windows.

In 1996, Lakewood embarked on a yearlong project of renovating the chapel. Under the guidance of architect Jim W. Miller, AIA, new lighting and heating systems were installed, a new crematory was built in the lower level, and the front entrance was landscaped.

Another part of Miller's task was to undo alterations made to the chapel over the past decades. Yellow paper was removed from behind the stained glass windows in the dome and the alcove at the front of the

chapel. A reddish-brown carpet covering the marble floor was taken up. Copper door and window casings were polished. A large stained glass chandelier globe, designed by Lamb, was restored to its place above the pulpit. Curtains were removed from the glass doors that lead from the entryway into the chapel and new glass panes were etched by Minneapolis glass workers with symbols echoing those on the bronze doors and the mosaic olive trees within the chapel.

A new computerized lighting system was installed to show the true beauty of the chapel interior. Twenty-four lighting combinations allow Lakewood to light the chapel appropriately for each occasion. At the same time, contemporary Minnesota artisans crafted four new torchères (floor lamps) to match the metalwork and glass light fixtures already in the chapel.

The 1996 renovation maintained the high standards set when the chapel was built nearly a century earlier. The best materials were used and highly skilled artists were chosen to do the work. Because of this consistent attention to excellence, the Lakewood Memorial Chapel will continue as a beautiful sanctuary for the community through the 21st century and beyond.

LAKWOOD, A PLACE TO REMEMBER

Lakewood is one of the most beautiful urban cemeteries in the country, with extraordinary history, architecture and scenery — and our grounds are open 365 days a year.



To explore more of Lakewood's intriguing history, visit our website or check out *Haven in the Heart of the City: The History of Lakewood Cemetery*, available in our Administration Building.

Lakewood hosts guided art and history tours, on foot or by trolley, and concerts in this spectacular chapel. We stage lively Earth Day and Memorial Day events in the spring, and a fall Lantern Lighting Ceremony open to anyone with a loved one who lives on in their heart. As a nonprofit organization governed by a board of trustees, Lakewood is committed to preserving and enhancing our grounds and architectural treasures, and we use proceeds generated from activities and events for that purpose. For more about tours and events, visit lakewoodcemetery.org.

LAKEWOOD CEMETERY HOURS

Gates are open 7 days a week, including holidays.

Summer: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Labor Day to fall daylight saving: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Fall daylight saving to spring: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

LAKEWOOD MEMORIAL CHAPEL HOURS

Monday–Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If locked, please seek assistance at the Administration Building.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING HOURS

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

LAKEWOOD GARDEN MAUSOLEUM AND MEMORIAL MAUSOLEUM HOURS

Open 7 days a week: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



LAKEWOOD
CEMETERY • CREMATION • COMMEMORATION

3600 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55408

lakewoodcemetery.org | 612-822-2171

A Nonprofit Governed by a Board of Trustees