



# *Cross of Christ*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
**11655 W. McMillan Road, Boise Idaho 83713 (208) 375-3992**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I started working with Benchmark and BRS (as a design and build team) in the summer of 2004 as part of a \$1.7 million dollar expansion to our facility. As the Building Chairman for Cross of Christ Ev Lutheran Church, I was actively involved in all stages of our Building project from design to completion. I would recommend using Benchmark and/or BRS in development projects.

In the early design phases with the architect, Clinton Yaka of BRS, Benchmark always had representatives present to assist in the design of the facility. This process worked well, so that the design of the facility was understood by all three parties involved in the process: the architect, the construction firm, and the customer. It was nice to have Benchmark engineers present through design aspects of the facility to provide a level of comfort in the completeness and accuracy of the designs. This process was extremely smooth and Benchmark assisted a great deal in helping us hit our cost goals.

As with all construction, the build phase of the project was not without its share of hiccups, cost-overruns and schedule delays. I appreciated Benchmark's ability to work with us to minimize cost overruns. Our project came in at approximately \$70,000 over its original contracted price, which is just over 4%. This number was far less than the 10% contingency recommended by our lender and customary in construction projects. At least half of that amount was due to design changes Cross of Christ initiated as well. This was one area where Benchmark really shined. Some of our schedule delays could be attributed to the City of Boise and some due to the heavy construction the Boise area is experiencing.

The aspect of working with Benchmark that impressed me the most was their willingness to stand behind their work and the work of their sub-contractors. I would like to point out two specific examples where I believe Benchmark (and their sub-contractor) went above what other companies might have in the same situation. The first was the masonry work in our gymnasium. Originally, we were supposed to have exposed masonry on the interior of the gym. Colored bricks were selected to form a pattern on the inside of the facility as well as outside. The sub-contractor did not do a very good job of providing insulation in the masonry. They left significant blemishes in the brick and mortar. The sub-contractor insisted the job was done to an acceptable level. We did not feel this way and Benchmark backed us in this. They went so far as to have our gymnasium and classrooms painted in a similar design pattern

to cover up the inferior masonry work. The end result did not cost Cross of Christ anything extra and looks amazingly good. I also really enjoyed working with Treasure Valley Fire and Benchmark through some difficult troubles with the city in the planning of our fire protection system. Treasure Valley Fire went out of their way to make as little of a visual impact to our Sanctuary as possible. Needless to say the City didn't originally agree, but with persistence on Benchmark and TVF, they were able to complete a design that is virtually invisible to a casual observer.

For Benchmark's willingness to stand by their product and ethics in dealing with us a customer, I don't hesitate to recommend them for future projects. I know we will look at Benchmark when we expand in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Christianson".

Eric Christianson  
Building Chairman, Cross of Christ  
Email: [epchristi@yahoo.com](mailto:epchristi@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 631-7977 cell