

Design Ideas for St John in the Wilderness

Below you will find links to church websites we found that have particular elements that we like. Rather than suggesting we copy the exact layout of any of these sites, we're trying to illustrate an overall feeling that we think makes sense for you: clean, open and balanced.

You'll notice we have included a bullet point list of things that like and don't like that we would like to direct your attention to.

Sites that we like:

[Holy Cross Lutheran Church](#)

There's a lot about that this site we do like and there's a lot that we don't like. I've listed what we don't like first, so that you don't land on the page and say "yuck!"

We do not like:

1. The huge hero images at the top of every page. They are overwhelming, unnecessary and don't make the site easier to understand and navigate. So if you can just ignore that huge image at the top and look at the rest of the page.
2. Parallax scrolling. [Here's a video that describes parallax scrolling.](#) (Of course, the people in the video think it's great. We don't agree. We find it distracting and confusing. We do not recommend using this technique.)
3. Text is too small and too light.
4. Navigation is too small and too light.

More importantly, what we do like:

1. The two column layout, with one column being an image.
2. All the white space.
3. The simplicity of the design makes it easy to understand what each page is about.

[The River Family Church](#)

What we like:

1. All the white space
2. The size of banner images at the top. It's a good balance with the header and the text below. We would consider making the banner images even a little less tall.

What we don't like:

1. Body text is too small and too light.
2. Heading text has too little contrast with the white background. We recommend using a darker color text for the heading.

Central Church

What we like:

1. The design of each page is very clean, simple and symmetrical.

What we don't like:

1. The image at the top of the page goes behind the navigation, making it difficult to read the words in the navigation bar. This is exactly the opposite of what we want! So the image at the top is fine, but we would not run it behind the navigation and behind the logo.
2. The text is kind of small and the color isn't quite dark enough.

Cascade Church Portland

This is a very simple site with few pages. But each page is well designed and easy to read. We particularly like the staff and board page. All those smiling people!

Trinity Church San Francisco

Another simple site. We like how the page is divided horizontally, with each section of the page having alternating background colors. However, we find the text on top of an image difficult to read, so instead of using a background image we could use a solid color.

In the first example, Holy Cross Lutheran, we made reference to the two column page layout - with an image on one side and text on the other. This is our preference, but there will be times that we don't have an image that is appropriate. In those cases, we would like you use this technique of having a one column layout and using a different color background.

OVERALL DESIGN ELEMENTS WE'D LIKE TO USE FOR YOUR SITE:

1. Text that is large enough and dark enough to be read easily.
2. Two-column layout when appropriate.
3. Navigation that is not obscured by a background image
4. Simple, clean design with lots of white space
5. Map on contact page with contact form and social media links
6. Comprehensive footer menu that includes location and contact info