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## TLS, Inc. Lights New Church Facility in Missouri

In the past decade, lighting has become an important part of many worship services. A large percentage of churches that are building or have built, new facilities have integrated lighting into the facility planning from the "dream" stage. (See related article on page 3). These churches realize that lighting plays a role in many ways. For many larger churches, lighting is needed for broadcast production as well as aesthetic value. Others use the lighting to either aim the focus at a certain area or enhance mood.

Because of this recent trend in worship lighting, TLS, Inc. has seen an influx of lighting packages for worship centers. Our project managers work closely with consultants and electrical contractors to insure that the latest technological advances are made available to the end user.

One of the most recent projects to be completed by



Lighting Fixtures Await Installation at La Croix

TLS, Inc. Sales Project Managers Dennis Aplin and Kelsey Beard is the new worship center for La Croix United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, MO.

The Dallas, TX office of Acoustic Dimensions, a consulting firm, worked closely with the architect to design a lighting package for La Croix's new

worship facility. The package included ETC Source Four PARs and ellipsoidals, an ETC Sensor dimming system, and an ETC Expression 3 control board.

After being awarded the bid to supply the lighting and control package, TLS, Inc. project managed the equipment to assure

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## Running with a Brand New Look

TLS, Inc. proudly launched its new website just before LDI 2004 (mid-October). Enhancements include a new color scheme, new layout, and more menu

choices to get you where you want to go - quicker! Be sure to check out the web site at [www.tlsinc.com](http://www.tlsinc.com) and let us know what you think!

## Manic About This Mania

As a lighting designer, you're often asked to recreate natural elements on stage, such as a shimmering pool, or perhaps a warm flickering campfire. What do you do?

Most of the time, you're going to grab an ellipsoidal, a couple of gobos, a gobo rotator, and some gel. If you purchase all that, you're looking at roughly \$500. (*not including the ellipsoidal!*)

If you're a club owner, lighting designer for a club, or DJ looking to add some earthly elements to your space - you too would have to acquire all the pieces mentioned above.

Why go to the hassle of trying to get all that together and pay that price when you can get one great effect in a single fixture with no attachments or accessories - for around \$200.

Here's where everybody can get excited. Martin has introduced two new "decoration tools" into its Mania line - the DC1 and the DC2.

### Mania DC1

The DC1 is Martin's first "deco" effect in the Mania series. This sleekly designed lighting fixture projects "decorative fluid effects" that can wash over an area creating any mood

desired - from slow trickle to waterfall.

### Mania DC2

The DC2, sleek like its sibling, the DC1, projects a different natural element - fire. This allows you to decorate your space with anything hot - a campfire flicker to a five alarm scorcher.

Both fixtures feature variable focus which allows you

to blur or sharpen the image to get the desired style. Add the variable speed control to speed up or slow down the motion and you can create the look you want.

Many fixtures currently on the market have a duty cycle, which means they have to turn off after a specific time in order to cool off. Not so with the DC1 & DC2, which are built to run for hours. Plus, with a lamp life of 800 hours, you can run this fixture all night.

We have both fixtures in this quarter's sale - located on the back page. You can also rent these fixtures from our Rental Department. Contact us at 256.533.7025 or visit our web site - [www.tlsinc.com](http://www.tlsinc.com) for more info.



**Martin Mania DC1**

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that everything was received in time to be installed by the electrical contractor, Dutch Electric. Jake Barrow, a TLS, Inc. Install Technician, was on-site to do the energization of the system, hang and focus the fixtures, and train the end-users on the "care and feeding" of their new lighting system.

Congratulations to La Croix on their new, and well-lit, facility.

### La Croix at a Glance

*Construction Company* - Kiefner Brothers Construction Cape Girardeau, MO Matthew A. Kiefner, PM

### Audio/Video/Lighting

*Consultants* - Acoustic Dimensions Dallas, TX Brian Elwell, PM/Designer

### Electrical Contractor

Dutch Electrical Jackson, MO

*Architect* - Hatfield - Halcomb, Inc. Dallas, TX Mark Hill, Designer

### Lighting Company

- TLS, Inc. Huntsville, AL Dennis Aplin, Kelsey Beard, PMs Jake Barrow - Install Tech

### TLS, Inc. Holiday Closing Schedule

*Closed*

Friday, December 24th and Saturday, December 25th for Christmas.

*Closed*

Saturday, January 1st and Monday, January 3rd for New Years.

We wish each of you, your friends, and family a wonderful and safe holiday season!



## Under Construction: Lighting the New Facility

When planning lighting for a new facility, you might be thinking about what fixtures to use, what style you want, or how much light you can afford. I encourage you to put one word first and foremost in your mind before all of that: *infrastructure*. Doesn't sound exciting, but it will make the difference when it comes to the usability and versatility of a facility. Fact is, after the foundation is poured it is very difficult and expensive to go back and enhance lighting where infrastructure problems are concerned.

**Power.** In a theater or church environment, lighting power is important; not only adequate sources and dimming, but where you place power. Consider dimming and outlet locations carefully. If you plan to routinely bring in theatrical lighting for special events, go ahead and put in a tie-in panel near your stage dimming location. The expense of something like this will be made up the first time you avoid renting a generator for two weeks. Look at conduit locations and runs - is there adequate room to grow? It's easy now to run a few more dollars in pipe before the concrete is poured over it.

**Control.** If you plan on automated lighting usage in your theater or worship

space, these instruments will need not only power but data lines run to them. Presently the cost of running control line is very inexpensive -most moving lights can now run off of Ethernet cable. Adapters and "hubs" are available for older fixtures. Running lengths of Category-5 cable from your front of house position to various places on stage and in catwalk positions will save hours of labor later.

Also on control, consider non-theatrical needs. Touch-panels at strategic points will allow your facilities team to easily turn on lighting for cleaning, or for other staff to set simple lighting presets for meetings or events where a theatrical lighting operator is not needed.

**Windows.** One consideration seldom fully considered in theaters and worship spaces is window placement. All of the best theatrical fixtures and goodies in the world cannot solve the sun shining

through a window on the stage at the wrong place and time. Be especially mindful of east- and west-facing windows. How big are they? Can you cover them for a production if you need to? Windows are desirable to let natural light in the facility - most of the time. For those times when you want complete control, you must structure the building in terms of window placement and coverings to give you that versatility.

In many worship spaces stained glass windows are a primary focal point. In fact, stained glass creates among the most beautiful of lighting effects. If you've chosen this as an architectural element early on and established the "look" of the facility around it, be sure to discuss the implications for lighting control.

**The Designer.** Getting the lighting infrastructure right from the beginning is best accomplished by a qualified architect, work-

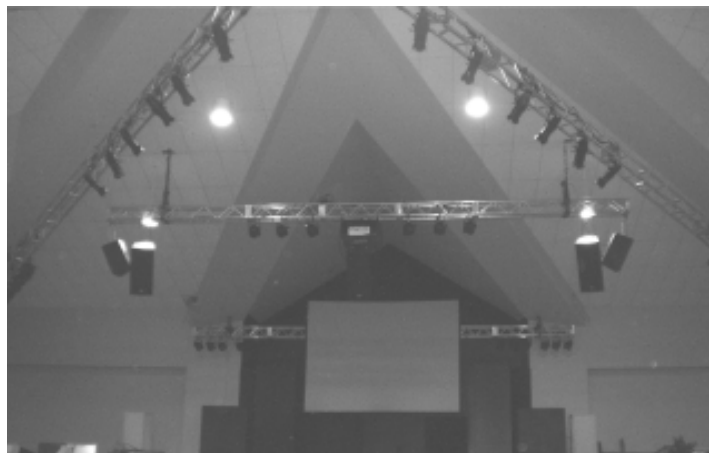
ing in concert with a good lighting designer. In a theatrical environment, I would highly recommend someone beyond the primary building designer to work on the theatrical portions. Why?

Most architects are well qualified to design spaces for people. They know how much room they need, how big the halls and stairwells need to be, how many bathrooms a facility requires. But theatrical spaces and worship rooms also require a degree of expertise in the technical areas of theater. Architectural lighting and theatrical lighting are different beasts. TLS, Inc. provides these design services and works in concert with the primary architect to create environments that are both beautiful and truly functional. It's so important to have good advice in the lighting area before the plans are stamped "approved."

Good planning, solid infrastructure and open communication at the early stage will save many headaches (and heartaches!) down the road.



*Gene Mason is the Communications Minister at the Church of Brookhills, in Birmingham, AL. Much thanks for his periodic contributions to this newsletter.*



**Inside the Church at Brookhills' Multi Purpose Building**