



Source: Picture Bundaberg



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Saint John's Lutheran Church

Establishment

- St John's Lutheran Church was designed by Dr Karl Langer, taking inspiration from Ancient Greek architecture and Modernist ideas of contemporary European architecture.
- As an architect, town planner and landscape architect, Langer had a pronounced impact upon the built environment of Australia, especially in Queensland.
- Tenders for the construction of the new St John's Lutheran Church were called in 1957. The successful tenderer was Brisbane-based J Hutchinson and Sons, at a price of £35,140.
- Much of the work was carried out by volunteer church members; digging the foundations by hand, carting bricks, tiles, sand, and gravel, mixing and pouring concrete, and donating and milling timber.
- Construction was completed in 1960 at a cost of £61,000 including the organ, pews, and all furnishings.

Building features

- The building has a box-like body sheltered by a large, gable tiled roof and spire.
- The tall, slender, square-based spire sheathed with copper rises almost 44m above ground with a copper cross atop, extending a further 2.7m.
- The northern and southern sides of the spire have fixed copper louvres at the level of the hanging bell.

- The external walls are orange face brick laid in English bond with projecting headers, creating a repetitive pattern. The lower parts of the walls are without projecting bricks and are painted.
- The church entrance is a simple, open, painted concrete portico. Langer designed the front of the church to appear as an open bible with bible passages in large letters, legible from a distance.
- The church has a variety of movable paraphernalia inside, as well as a 4.5m long timber crucifix on the wall above the altar, made of Queensland silky oak.
- The cross holds a 2.4m long figure of Christ carved from Tasmanian King William pine; the work of Alfred Schubert, a Czech-born woodcarver from Melbourne.

References

- Picture Bundaberg, ca.1960, *St John's Lutheran Church*, [picture], Bundaberg Regional Library Service.
- Picture Bundaberg, 1960, *St John's Lutheran Church Opening Day* [picture], Bundaberg Regional Library Service.
- Queensland Government, 2016, *St John's Lutheran Church*, Bundaberg, State of Queensland, viewed 11 June 2018, environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=602815

