



Glory in the details: Wendish blue makes a Texas-sized impact at St. Paul's.

Texas to escape religious persecution. The Wends set sail for their new home in 1854 and made their way to what would become Serbin. The current church was dedicated in 1871.

Today, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation knows it has something special. Swirling patterns painted on the columns with turkey feathers give a marbled effect. White and Wendish blue, which echoes the blue of traditional Wendish clothing, set off colorful stenciled floral images on the ceiling.

In fact, everything in the two-story church (men used to sit in the balcony, women and children below)—from the beautiful gold chandeliers to the towering century-old pipe organ—adds to the beauty. Although most of the original elements of the church remain, St. Paul's first bell resides at Concordia University in Austin, Texas.

St. Paul's, which has a sister church in Klitten, Germany, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a favorite stop among travelers to the area.

"The music just fills up the congregation," Bise says of the worship experience at St. Paul's. "It's awesome." Folks around Serbin must agree. The church is full every Sunday.

—Ingrid Skjong

FOUNDATIONS

Painted Glory

Pastors visiting St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin, Texas, find themselves atop the tallest pulpit in the Lone Star State. At a lofty 12 feet, it provides a stellar view of the lovely historic space and all its

distinctive touches.

"It's such a close atmosphere," says Joyce Bise, a member of St. Paul's. "The front pews are just five feet from the altar itself."

Proudly presiding 48 miles east of Austin, Texas, the 450-seat church is the product of Germanized Slavs, known as the Wendish, who organized a Lutheran church in 17th century Germany and immigrated to

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Permanent Life

Permanent Life (n.)—A type of life insurance contract designed to provide long-term coverage—even for a lifetime. In addition to a

death benefit, it has a cash value (or accumulated value) available through a contract loan (and sometimes through a partial surrender or withdrawal)*. Growth in cash value is tax deferred until the contract owner accesses it. A permanent life insur-

ance contract requires higher premiums, but some types of permanent life insurance guarantee that the premiums will remain level throughout your lifetime.

*Decreases the cash surrender value and death benefit amount.