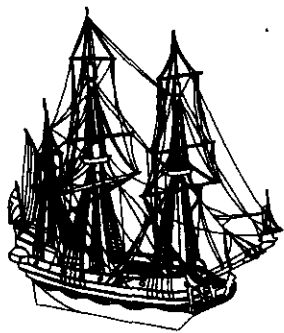


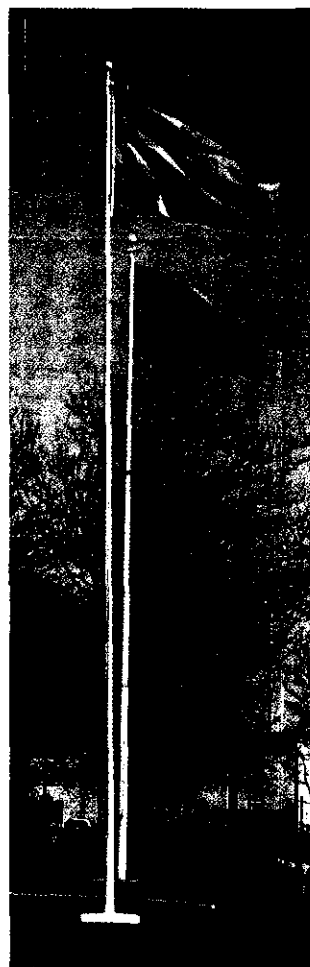
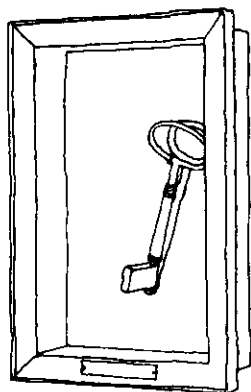
PORTRAITS OF EARLY PASTORS are located on the balcony railing and are visible from the front of the church. In the center is the portrait of the Rev. Ericus Bjork, the first pastor, who led the congregation during the building of the church. To the viewer's left is the portrait of the Rev. Israel Acelius, pastor from 1749 to 1756, and on the viewer's right is the portrait of the Rev. Peter Tranberg, pastor from 1742 to 1748, whose grave is at the front of the church.



MODEL OF THE "KALMAR NYCKEL" is a gift to the City of Wilmington from its sister city, Kalmar, Sweden. On permanent loan from the City of Wilmington, the model is a reminder of the ship that brought the first settlers to New Sweden.

Under the direction of Peter Minuit, the ship, and a smaller vessel called the "Vogel Grip," left Europe in December 1637. They sailed up the Delaware River in March 1638, landing at the area known as The Rocks, about one-quarter mile east of the church on Seventh Street.

THE CHURCH KEY, which is displayed in a small framed box, was used in the south door in the early days. Originally, only the south door of the church had a lock; the other doors were secured with bars. The doors feature large hardware, and the pulley weights on the main door can be seen from the vestibule.



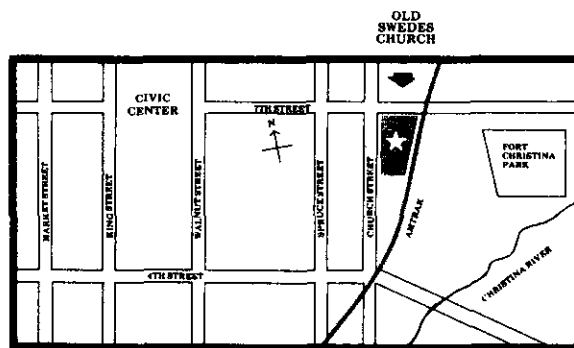
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Office: (302) 652-5629

Illustrated by Jill Cypher

Old Swedes Church

Constructed in 1698-1699



Welcome to HOLY TRINITY (Old Swedes) CHURCH, a place of history – a celebration of life. Constructed in 1698-1699, Old Swedes, as it is called, flourishes today as one of the nation's oldest church buildings still in regular use for worship.

Established as a Swedish Lutheran Church, Old Swedes was placed under the jurisdiction of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1791.

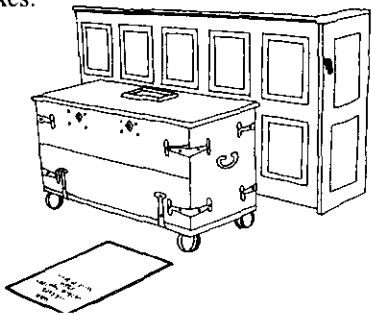
In recognition of its unique role in the founding of worship at Fort Christina and in the Swedish Colony of New Sweden, which became the State of Delaware on December 7, 1787, Old Swedes Church was designated a Registered National Landmark on March 29, 1963.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Old Swedes and invite you to worship with us whenever you are in Wilmington.

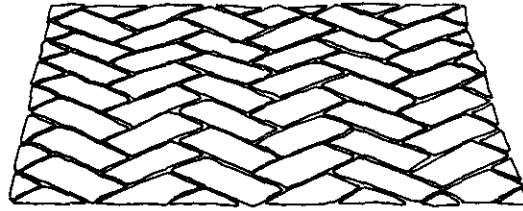
A description of the church and its items of historical interest follows. Most of these items are located within the church itself; others may be displayed in the church vestibule or in the Hendrickson House, the small fieldstone building that houses a museum. The organ is in the balcony and is not accessible to tourists.

The mixture of historical and modern fixtures reflects the history of worship at Old Swedes, which began 300 years ago and continues today.

THE CHURCH CHEST dates from 1713. It was used to store important documents, church valuables, and cash. The chest has two keyholes, each requiring a different key, making it similar to modern safe deposit boxes.



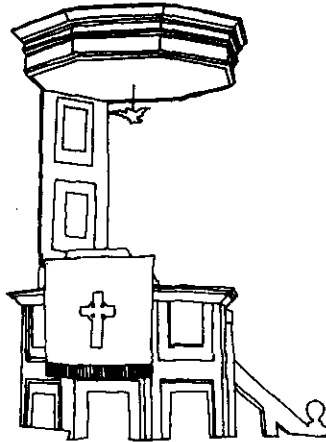
THE HERRINGBONE BRICKS in the main aisle may have served as the traditional location for a winter, or Christmas, tree. Later, it was the location of a stove used to warm the church during services.



THE PEWS are reproductions of the originals and were built in 1899 using patterns and descriptions from early church records.

The pews could be closed to keep out drafts in winter; worshippers often brought heated rocks or pans of hot coals into their pews to keep themselves warm. The pews were raised off the floor so their doors would not catch on the uneven bricks.

Through the 1700s, men sat on the right facing the altar, and women sat on the left in keeping with the Swedish custom.



THE PULPIT is the oldest known pulpit in the United States. Made of black walnut, it has a canopy and support board. The pulpit was carved by Joseph Harrison, a cabinetmaker from Philadelphia, who used wood given by members of the

congregation. The canopy was designed to help project the speaker's voice. The hand-carved dove above the pulpit is a modern gift from Sweden.

THE ALTAR is a modern one, fashioned from black walnut with paneling that echoes the design of the pulpit. It is at least the third altar at Old Swedes.

THE CHURCH BANNER is also modern. It is carried by members of Old Swedes during official visits.

THE CENTRAL CHANDELIER, a gift to the church, is an eighteenth-century brass candelabrum from an abbey church in Ireland. It was installed in this church in the mid-1960's.

THE GRAVE OF PETER TRANBERG is just outside the altar rail's center opening. Tranberg was an early pastor of the Swedish congregation, as was the Rev. Andreas Borell, who is assumed to be buried somewhere in the church. Church records also indicate that five children are buried in unmarked locations inside the altar rail. Records also show that additional graves are under the church walls, but their locations are unknown.

THE GRAVE STONE located in the cross-aisle marks the burial site of Peter Abraham Acrelius, infant son of the last Swedish pastor of Old Swedes. The child died of whooping cough in 1786. This is one of eight grave sites inside the church.

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS located throughout the church were added between 1885 and 1897. They were given as memorials and replace earlier windows that featured small panes of clear glass. The coloration of the altar window differs slightly from the others, suggesting that it is probably German, while the others were produced in this country.

