

Superior Wind Resistance Blows Asphalt Shingles Away

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a challenge: the 33,000 square-foot building is topped with an octagon-shaped roof over a sanctuary rising 63 feet high. With the height and dimensions of the 8-sided roof, the South Dakota winds would hit the roof and dormers causing the existing asphalt shingles to blow off.

“We could not keep an asphalt shingle on this roof,” says Steve Casanova, Director of Facilities Management at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. “With winds at just 40 mph the shingles would rip off like dominos. We were constantly patching, repairing, and fixing the roof.”

To address their roofing challenge the church leaders created a roofing action team. For nine months, they studied different roof systems and materials—from slate to rubber to standing seam steel. “One day, I received a flyer from Jaeger and Associates, Inc., so I called Joel Jaeger,” Casanova says. “He came up here and all it took was for him to look to see our problem and show us what he had and DECRA Metal Roofing was exactly what we needed.”

The key selling feature was the interlocking nature of DECRA’s direct to deck products. During the installation process, the clip-lock at the nose of one panel and the clip-lock at the back of another are interlocked and screwed down. Likewise, there is a side-lap locking mechanism contributing to the interlocking nature of the product. This installation process allows DECRA products to be warranted against winds up to 120 mph.

Chosen for its dimensional and robust textures, DECRA Shake XD[®] was the perfect profile to fit the unique aesthetics of the church. “It’s a gorgeous 3D shingle; you can’t tell that it isn’t an asphalt shingle roof and it matched the color of the old asphalt tiles perfectly,” said Jaeger.

In addition to the constant maintenance that the old asphalt roof required, the church roof also suffered from leaks. These leaks appeared to come from the vents on the roof occurring when snow and ice entered through the vents, and would then thaw, melt, and drip inside. “We got rid of all air vents that you normally see on an asphalt roof because the air gap under the metal shingles provides constant airflow and eliminates the need for vents,” said Casanova. “By eliminating the air vents, we eliminated the problem with roof leaks.”

“I like it, I really do,” he adds. “In the long run it will save us money and the warranty is unbelievable.”

About DECRA Metal Roofing

DECRA Metal Roofing has provided the first line of defense against the elements for homes and buildings for more than 60 years and is unsurpassed in every roofing product comparison category, from wind, fire, and impact resistance to energy efficiency and sustainability. With a Lifetime Limited Warranty that goes far beyond the 10 or 20-year warranties of asphalt roofing products, DECRA is the gold standard of modern roofing systems for architects, contractors, and homeowners who will settle for nothing less than the best.

