



...together with God's Word
2011 Special Congregational Meeting
March 27th 10:45am

Saint John
Lutheran Church

March 22, 2011

Dear Saint John Family,

but, just as you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for others, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

Our Goals

- Create a new, inviting MAIN ENTRANCE
- Create a bright, spacious hospitable GATHERING SPACE
- Create bright, new, handicap-accessible REST ROOMS
- Address mechanical issues heating/ AC/ electrical/parking/fire sprinkling
- Funding high energy, professional Youth and Family Minister
- Retire existing debt

Wouldn't that be wonderful!

Last July we took a major step toward acting on our future vision and voted to develop design plans to renovate and remodel our current buildings. Our goals as outlined in July 2010 are listed at left.

We authorized spending up to \$3,000,000 to accomplish this. We also authorized borrowing and mortgaging the church for \$1,000,000, plus additional interim funds if needed. Since then we held two pledge fund campaigns that have totaled \$1,200,000 and \$294,000 respectively, an achievement that we should all be proud of.

This January the construction cost bids came in at \$3,555,000 which far exceeded the original estimates of \$2,825,000. Those numbers do not include a contingency fund, balance of the architect fees or asbestos removal costs.

In an effort to move forward the Building Committee met with the builder and architect to develop alternative plans that would be more in line with our abilities and presented those options with cost estimates at the Feb. 27th meeting. New bids were then requested of the many subcontractors on these plan options. With those bids in hand the Building Committee has developed what it believes is the best plan option for the church to consider this Sunday.

In meeting with our lender of choice, *Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA*, they have suggested restructuring our financing plan to have one larger loan encompassing all facets of the process instead of using an interim as well as a permanent loan. This along with the increase in building costs will mean carrying a larger loan longer.

We are meeting daily to finalize details and prepare a formal proposal for you to consider this Sunday.

Remember we will have one service this Sunday at 9:30 am and will have our congregational meeting at 10:45 am.

Given the importance of this vote to the future of our church we are asking that all members of Saint John attend this meeting and have your voices heard.

E. Jon Benson, Senior Pastor
Gary Woods, Building Committee Chairman
Chad Burdick, Council President
Scott Hartman, Treasurer

You can find information about our long journey along with drawings on our website.
(<http://www.saintjohnelca.org/page6.asp>)