



Building
On a
Legacy
Devoted...
to God and his Word
Supporting
Trusting
Encouraging
Praying
Sharing

St John Lutheran Church & School

437 Turner Street | Wrightstown, WI 54180 | 920-532-4865 | stjohnwrightstown.com

What follows is a potluck of delicious news bits regarding B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S.

CHURCH OFFER

Many months ago the congregation resolved to build anew on a single campus. That decision included the selling of our current church. That's no easy task because the pool of possible buyers is quite small. Since there are about eight church buildings for sale in northeast Wisconsin, the market also is flooded.

Still, within a week of hitting the market we have received a bid from a gentleman who wishes to use the building as a music studio for giving individual lessons, holding recitals and concerts, and the like. What a blessing that would be both to Wrightstown and to St. John. If the sale proceeds smoothly, contingencies are met, and the Voters approve the terms, we will have considerable additional cash with which to start our project. Further, a buildable lot at the far end of the parking lot and the parsonage are not part of the sale. Sale of the three properties could net us around \$500,000. (Of course, the parsonage won't be sold until the Gehls have found a home to purchase in Wrightstown.)

Be assured that the rules of a property sale state that things not nailed down may be retained by the seller, and things nailed down go to the buyer – unless specified otherwise. In this case, the buyer has requested the ranges and refrigerators, but has no need for the organ chimes, projector and screen, and altar statues. Therefore we will keep dishes, tables, chairs, and the like.

Hats off to the Property Disposition Committee for this promising lead. And may we all spend time in prayer that our good God would continue to bless us as we take these B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S. to better position ourselves for bold ministry in Wrightstown. From the beginning this project has been all about ministry, not merely change or wanting what's new.

(As of this writing, the Voters had not yet met to consider the offer to buy.)

"The topsy-turvy world we live in today only reminds us there are so many more people who do not know Jesus saving grace. It is our obligation, as children of God, to spread the good news, especially to the younger generation....We need to find those lost sheep before it is too late." – Jean Brandt

ORGAN TRANSPLANT

Yes, the organ is included in the sale of the church property. At first that may strike our dear readers as a giant negative, but consider these points. It would cost many thousands of dollars to remove and store the organ for possibly ten years. Further, to serve us well in the new sanctuary would require a few additional ranks of pipes. All that becomes rather pricey. Since the used pipe organ market is also flooded, we will likely be able when the time comes to find a more suitable used organ at a favorable cost.

Up until quite recently we could not find any information on who built our organ a century ago. Recently our consultant Dr. Wagner was perusing some of our old history booklets in his mother's possession. He found some fascinating information about our organ in the 75th anniversary booklet (1944). It was built by the Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling Company of Cleveland, OH, a company that still exists under the name Holtkamp Organ Company and had and still has quite a reputation for quality instruments. The organ cost \$3320. (Long ago Dr. Wagner's mother was a member of St. John.)

FINANCING

Your Finance Committee has been in touch with five lending institutions and is analyzing early information from each in preparation for bringing to the congregation a financing plan for this much-needed project. Details are too sketchy to share at this time, but work continues.

BUILDING PLANS

Months ago we reported that the Building and Finance Committees would both set to work, and that at times one would get ahead of the other and then vice-versa. Currently there is little for the Building Committee to do until the Finance Committee makes more progress. The two committees are in regular communication (...of course, since Jean Brandt is chair of Finance and Gary Brandt is on the Building Committee).

THE ALTERNATIVE

It is quite natural for those who've worshiped in the same facility for decades, who were baptized, confirmed, and married there, to be reluctant to leave that experience behind. It is a good thing to love the house of God, to treasure worship experiences there. However, such attachments must not be allowed to work against the fulfillment of the congregation's resolve to build anew on a single campus to better position ourselves for a stronger outreach ministry in our community.

"Many hearts, dreams will be broken and I feel there will be people who transfer due to the frustration. (Failing to build now) may 'thwart' any new discussions of building in the future." – Anonymous Member of St. John

There are also stewardship reasons for embracing B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S. Information shared some time ago at an Open Forum indicated that the cost of needed improvements and repairs could approach \$1,500,000. The downside is that all that expense would leave us with a split campus and a building still not fit for vibrant ministry in today's world.

Just as with any 110-year-old building, additional repair issues will frequently face us. Has anyone asked, "How will all that get paid for?" Keeping the present church building is not an escape from large costs; it's just agreeing to never-ending costs that do not enhance ministry.

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

(Abbrev. Grace Moments - Pastor Mike Novotny)

The other day my eight-year-old and I were playing driveway volleyball when we saw our elderly neighbor....reaching up with a broom, trying to clean the leaves out of her gutter....Before long, I was on a ladder sweeping out her stubborn leaves....My daughter swept them in a big pile....red cheeked and sweaty....But not once did she whine....mope....give me a frustrated look. And I was so proud of her! So proud of the love she gave our neighbor. So proud of the joy she brought to an elderly sister in the faith.

That's how your Father feels too. When you decide in your heart to give generously, trusting in Jesus to provide for your every need, God loves it. You might not see his face like my daughter saw mine, but believe these words – God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving our time and money is one of the hardest parts of the Christian life. It requires every bit of God-given motivation. So take Paul's words to heart today as you consider your response to Jesus' forgiveness, grace, and salvation: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).
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Grain growing on our Plum Road Property
Envision St. John "growing" here.

"We've been on the cusp of building several times, but never followed through to completion. If this effort doesn't succeed, I see St. John becoming content with a minimal maintenance ministry until finally maintenance and repair costs drive the congregation to extinction. How sad for Wrightstown, and so very unnecessary!" – Ron Zahn

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