



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

St John Lutheran Church & School

261 Clay Street | Wrightstown, WI 54180 | 920-532-4865 | stjohnwrightstown.com

ANOTHER DAY THE LORD HAS MADE

Sunday, June 12, was a festive day indeed. Nearly 100 members and friends of St. John gathered on the high point of the Plum Road property to engage in the ceremonial groundbreaking for our new church and school.

Pastor Gehl moved the first shovel of dirt, followed by members of the Building Committee, school staff, and more.

Significant was the participation of many children with miniature plastic shovels – an involvement they will not likely soon forget.



Enjoy a recap of some of the words God's people sang and heard during the festive worship:

- Surely in temples made with hands God, the most high, is not dwelling.
- Grant then, O God...that many in saving faith may come where Christ his message is bringing.
- We are here to ask God's blessing as we set apart this ground for the building of a new facility for worship, education, and fellowship.
- We worship today with thankful hearts as we set aside and sanctify this ground for a new church and school.
- Jacob said, "This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven."
- No one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- Almighty and eternal God, give your grace to all who will be involved in the work of building, that the construction

of this facility may be successfully and safely completed.

- Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Let us rejoice in this day and be glad in it!

PARSONAGE SOLD

Although the marketing of the parsonage did not receive the buyer interest we had hoped for, a buyer was found, and the bid was only \$5000 below the asking price. After the inevitable fees involved with the sale of property, the proceeds paid off the entirety of our line of credit with Greenleaf Bank and put an additional \$70,500 into the Capital Building Fund. (Since the parsonage was tagged as collateral for the line of credit, the parsonage sale necessitated paying off the line of credit and closing the account.)

The Finance Committee is now working with Greenleaf Bank to establish a new line of credit, should lean months make that a need. Of course, additional borrowing can be avoided if all members continue first-fruit offerings throughout the typically lean summer months.

IN THE WEEDS WITH FINANCING

You may be one who, understandably, doesn't want to get "into the weeds" regarding financing. If so, just skip this section, although we here will wade only knee deep, not up to the ears!

In short, how the bidding process works:

- Catalyst maintains a list of subcontractors with whom they have worked successfully in the past. To that list Catalyst added subcontractors recommended by St. John. In all, over 300 bid invitations were sent out.



NEWS BRIEFS

- Nearly 100 bids were received by the deadline. This is fewer than normal. Why? Contractors are more than busy these days (residential and commercial construction is going on wherever one looks), so they are not hungry for work. This eliminates the incentive to bid low.

Catalyst combed over the bids to clarify any ambiguities and then shared the results with the Building Committee on May 17. A few highlights:

- There were no bids at all in a few small areas.
- Some bids came in slightly below or in line with estimates.
- Several bids came in hugely above estimates. For example:
 - Steel stud and drywall – way up!
 - Plumbing – way up because of copper.
 - Fire protection – way up.
 - HVAC – up \$100,000.
 - Lumber – up by \$300,000.
 - Etc. Etc!

As a result, the Building Committee immediately accepted several changes/alternates:

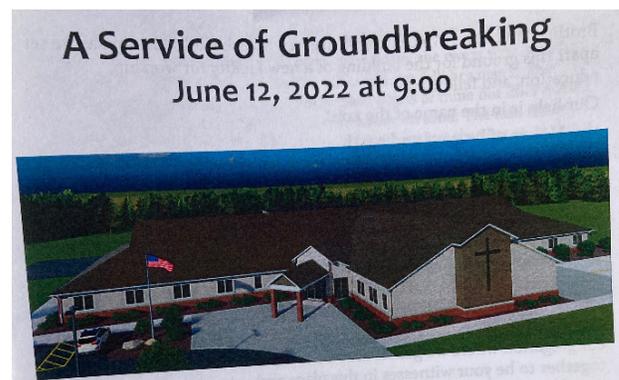
- Eliminate the roll-up windows in the kitchen for now – save over \$20,000.
- Manage all or most final cleaning ourselves – save possibly \$13,000.
- Possibly leave two classrooms unfinished – savings of \$40,000 to \$50,000.
- Switch from Pella to Anderson 100 Fibrex windows – savings of \$16,000.

Further, the Building Committee took the following steps:

- Instructed Catalyst to send out additional bid invitations, mostly to companies identified by St. John.
- Instructed Catalyst to get clarity regarding the involvement of Builders for Christ.
- Instructed Catalyst to continue efforts at value engineering (securing bid reductions by negotiating with bidders for lower costs by substituting alternate brands/materials while maintaining quality).
- Slowing the construction timeline, but still enclosing the building before winter, in hopes that we might get more favorable pricing by providing indoor work-opportunities during the “off season.”

- This year's school enrollment may approach 90 students, up about 20 from the year just ended.
- The Parent Teacher Organization has raised nearly \$26,000 toward playground equipment.
- Since meetings are ongoing while this newsletter is being written and published, some late-breaking news may not make it by press time.
- By the time you read this, all sub-contractor bids should be in hand. The Building Committee intends to accept some, reschedule the construction timeline to give more opportunity for indoor work during the winter months, and then request new bids from some contractors based on the revised schedule in hopes of more favorable numbers.

Fun and Fellowship Following the Service



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