



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

St John Lutheran Church & School

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LOOKING AHEAD

After a couple years of meetings and much discussion the Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Tori Kluess, finished work on a lengthy document listing a number of goals we at St. John hope to accomplish in the near future, and also goals to be met by 2024, 2026, and 2031 (that is, 3-year goals, 5-year goals, and 10-year goals). Why? Without goals, it's too easy to simply plod along with church doors open and sermons preached but be only lukewarm in our love for Jesus and his assigned mission.

Last year the Voters unanimously adopted those goals, in excess of six dozen in number. Within the framework of this B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S newsletter's purpose, one ten-year goal looms large – and exciting. (Please pause your reading for a moment; try to identify that goal we as people of God hope with his help to reach by 2031.)

Hint: “Phase 1 Groundbreaking” was listed as a short-term goal, and....yes, “Phase 2 Occupancy” is our target by 2031. Phase 2, of course, is the construction of our new church and related spaces. I for one can't wait. But for now, my effort, my prayers, my giving, my talents....all must be happily directed at fulfilling the promise of the signage recently erected on the Plum Road property.



TAKE A RIDE

Take a slow turn onto Plum Road from Highway 96 in Wrightstown and relish the 64 square feet of signage recently erected by Kevin Vande Hey and his ample crew. Then turn around and relish a second view. Recognize that this is much more than a mere sign. It's a signal that we, the gathered people of St. John, are taking a serious step – a B.O.L.D S.T.E.P – in furthering our gospel outreach in the Wrightstown area.

FOCUS ON FURTHER FUNDING

These days “win-win” situations are popular. Certainly you've heard of the financial “win-win” that you can easily participate in. Space does not allow for a full description here, but know this: Already, \$450,000 has been invested in LACE (our lender) at favorable interest rates, and each such investment tugs our mortgage interest rate down. Full details of this opportunity are available from the Finance Committee or in the news rack in the coffee room at church. Just ask if you can't find it.

NEAR-TERM CALENDAR

Meetings with the architect (Excel) and builder (Catalyst) are more frequent now as building plans approach completion. Plans are, God willing, to be reviewed by the Village Planning Commission on April 11. Thereafter the Village Board will review those plans on April 19. Catalyst will then send the plans out for bids. In late April or early May there will be a bid opening event, with a ground-breaking ceremony later in May. Knowing that “The prayer of a righteous person is able to do much because it is effective” (James 5:16), take these matters daily to our Lord in prayer.

COLOR AND MATERIALS DISPLAY

On a table in the church basement you will find samples of the carpet, tile, and luxury vinyl planking chosen by the selections sub-committee. All are labeled so you can visualize where each will be used. This display cannot remain in our possession for long, so make haste if you want to enjoy it!



ITEMS BY OWNER

Whenever discussions with the architect revealed jobs that members of St. John could readily do, we directed that those tasks not be included in the bidding process. Yes, this will save considerable money, but more importantly, it will give God's people – and that's what we are – multiple opportunities to live the lives of service that God has called us to. A side-blessing will be getting to better know fellow members working on the same project.

Here's a partial list of "By Owner" items to date:

- Erect garage
- Construct dumpster enclosure
- Grade topsoil and seed lawns
- Decorative landscaping
- Purchase and install playground equipment
- Install patio off kitchen area
- Pave ECC oval for trike path
- Fencing for playgrounds
- Purchase and install gym bleachers
- Construct monument sign along Plum Rd.
- Install non-retractable BB standards in gym
- Construct and install back-lit cross on front of building
- Purchase and install smartboards and touch screens in classrooms
- Purchase and install video cameras and 85" monitors in worship area

- Phone, IT, and security systems
- Chancel cross
- Gym protection pads
- Gym scoreboards
- Kitchen and dry storage upper cabinets
- Fencing around mechanical equipment
- Install wood ceiling of entrance canopy

Certainly not all these items are top priority, so not all will be done at once. The point is that we are purposely providing ample opportunities for Christian service. Start marking your favorites and then await the call. Last Sunday there was quite a crew at the new property installing the signage pictured on the reverse. Thanks to all who contributed to that effort.

GYM MATERIALS ORDERED

Early in March we were informed that two bids had been received for the fabrication and erection of the pre-engineered metal gym, and that materials would arrive about 34 weeks after the order was placed. Your Building Committee therefore authorized placing the order at \$371,500, about \$7,500 or 2% above the estimate but more than \$42,000 below the other bid. There are likely to be other supply-chain issues, but Excel and Catalyst are staying ahead of the game as much as possible in this challenging environment. It's probably best to not schedule any basketball or family fun nights in the gym just yet – but do keep looking forward to the fun and fellowship.

PARSONAGE SALE

The Property Disposition Committee gave updated information on the sale of the parsonage to the Voters on February 27. An open-forum style discussion resulted in a consensus that we should lower the price from \$274,900 to \$249,900. A key factor in the discussion was that in the near future another large home on the block would hit the market for under \$300,000. That home has several features that would be more appealing to prospective buyers. However, contrary to the information we had received, that home is being marketed at \$345,000. Voters may wish to again re-assess our asking price.

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