

business in Bloomer, WI. Dale hopes to sell the business so that he can fully retire to Wrightstown, where he considers St. John to be dynamic in sharing the gospel and an enjoyable blessing.

Bart Reschke completes the Finance Committee. A life-long member of St. John, Bart attended both our Lutheran school and FVL and even Dr. Martin Luther College (now MLC) for a time. His work experience began in his father's cabinet shop, followed by almost two decades on the Golden Rail Dairy. Bart has been bowling for 25 years and loves it still. Cheering on Wisconsin sports teams, attending car shows, and delivering shavings to area farms combine to fill his days. In the past Bart dug graves, and currently serves as St. John's cemetery sexton and as recording secretary and, of course, on the Finance Committee.

Q & A Obviously many dollars will be needed to construct our new church and school. Can we contribute now so that the final loan won't have to be so big? Certainly! The congregation recently established the Capital Building Fund which is parked within the Endowment. To contribute to this fund, it is preferred that you use the blue-bordered "Building Fund" envelope in your envelope box. You'll find one at the beginning of each quarter. You may also use any yellow-bordered "Endowment Fund" envelope in your envelope packet, and mark it "Capital Building." Any gifts, whether large or small, will kick-start the effort and reduce the size of the final loan and, of course, the monthly mortgage payments. Thanks for asking!



B.O.L.D s.t.e.p.s

As you've already heard, the theme of our building program is **BOLD steps**. More than just brick and mortar, we're **B**uilding **O**n a **L**egacy **D**evoted to God and his Word. That involves our **s**upport, **t**rust, **e**ncouragement, **p**rayers, and **s**haring.

This **BOLD** theme wasn't just pulled out of thin air because it easily lends itself to a catchy little phrase. It's based on God's Word. Hopefully you'd expect nothing less! We embark on this project seeking God's blessings and trusting in his promises as we

carry out his gospel ministry here at St. John.

For 150 years and counting, this congregation has proclaimed Christ. That's our legacy. If not for Christ, we wouldn't be here. If not for Christ, there'd be no reason for us to be here. The commission of Jesus is the mission of all Christian congregations – to gather disciples by sharing the gospel through the spoken Word, whether alone or connected to visible Sacraments. Every single pastor and every single member in the history of our congregation is a brick that's been placed on that solid foundation. Each one is an integral part of the gospel ministry that God has entrusted to us by his grace.

That's why we can be so bold as we go forward in faith. As we build together on Christ and his Word, we know that we can't possibly fail. He's called us as his church-builders. He's given us the powerful tools for ministry. And he promises us that his Word does exactly what he's assigned it to do – no more and no less.

The verse of Scripture that ties into our building program theme comes from 1 Corinthians 3:10,11. Remember it. Memorize it. Reflect on it. And boldly step out in faith with it.

“In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (EHV)



MEET YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE – Of course, no building can be built without cost, and that suggests there must be a Finance Committee to assist the congregation in exploring both conventional and not-so-conventional ways to accomplish the funding of the project at hand. In this early stage the Finance Committee has talked briefly with a few lending institutions and considered the role of in-kind donations to reduce costs. The committee will soon be holding preliminary meetings with several fund-raising consultants. They are also gathering information from other WELS churches regarding their experiences with these fund-raising consultants.

Our BOLD STEPS Finance Committee is chaired by Jean Brandt. Dale Abrahamson and Bart Reschke make up the rest of the committee. Meet each of them below.

Chair **Jean Brandt** grew up in Appleton near FVL. Her husband Gary first dated Jean's twin sister while Jean dated Gary's best high-school friend. Eventually things got straightened out, and Jean married Gary and moved to Wrightstown. She worked as a Staff Accountant for Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh, and as a result of an unusual hiring situation in Wrightstown was appointed as the first full-time Clerk/Treasurer for the Village, a position she held for nearly 20 years. Now in retirement, Jean enjoys reading specific categories of fiction and listening to country music, instrumentals, and gospel. All that leaves little time to enjoy that crystal red metallic Corvette coupe in the garage!

Dale Abrahamson, while new to St. John, is not new to marriage (47 years to Lena, a retired physical therapist), finance (holds a degree in political science and business), true Bible teaching (having left a church because it refused to teach and practice true doctrine), teaching (holds another degree in education, taught English in Japan and Sunday School, and held long service on a public school board) and secrets (spent 24 years in the Air Force, many as a top-clearance Radio Communications Analyst). Dale has also served in various Church Council positions, and for nearly 30 years has owned a growing tax