



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

St John Lutheran Church & School

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RISKY START

Plenty of prayers posted heavenward on Monday morning, August 29, as the 2022-2023 school year was about to begin with an opening service scheduled for the outdoors on the school parking lot/basketball court! The skies were overcast, but not the hearts of God's people gathered there. The weatherman's words were not comforting, but God's Words were, as always. And also as always, God answered the many prayers – with a bold yes to our requests! The rains held off as the nearly one hundred worshipers heard and sang the Word.

There was no risk in the enrollment; rather, it's brisk. There are a total of 81 enrolled in Preschool through Grade 8, the highest it's been in years. These students are spread across five classrooms; our new building will have seven classrooms (3 early childhood; 4 elementary). There is general confidence that the new facility together with a current waiting list will result in seven utilized rooms in short order. Pray for that blessing!

There's no risk in the curriculum, no questions regarding whether contemporary and sometimes popular trends will sneak into our classrooms. Since our classrooms and curriculum are fully informed by the sure Word of God, parents can be at peace.

Now it's true that God could easily have opened the clouds at 8:30 that morning and sent the crowd scurrying – to where I don't know! Not to the gym, not to the commons, not to a spacious general purpose room – we have nothing like that! But God willing, the opening service for school year 2023-2024 will be indoors and safe from whatever weather there may be. Yes, in the school com-



mons, equipped and designed to serve as “church” until such time as we are blessed with a permanent and dedicated church facility.

WHAT'S UP ON PLUM ROAD?

Not much today, but tomorrow is coming soon!

Early in March we signed a contract with Red Hawk Metal Buildings, headquartered in Richfield, WI, to fabricate and construct the gymnasium wing of our facility, a pre-engineered metal building. Expected delivery time was 34 weeks out, or the end of October. Fortunately, actual delivery occurred on August 22 when three large flatbeds arrived in the early morning hours from Terrell, TX where Black Hawk has a fabrication plant.

A few days prior to delivery a temporary gravel driveway and storage area had been constructed to make this big delivery possible. We expect that within the next few weeks dirt will be moved, a concrete slab installed, and soon thereafter the gymnasium should arise from what recently was a corn field. (OK, maybe it was soybeans, but you get the point!)

All that said, it's still too early to schedule our first Family Gym Night, but anticipate it with joy.



IT'S A GO!

A few months ago your Building Committee, in consultation with Excel and Catalyst, determined that in hopes of getting better bids, we would delay construction by a few months to allow for more indoor work over the winter months, and also to possibly capture some of the materials price drops that had been occurring.

On September 1 the Building Committee met virtually with Catalyst to review submitted bids even though a few stragglers were still out. Accepting bids at this time was important to keep a reasonable construction timeline.

All bidders were requested to submit ideas for reducing the cost of their part of the project without significantly reducing the service life or utility of the building. \$93,000 of reductions were accepted in the areas of plumbing and HVAC. These steps were taken – it's called “value engineering” in the business – in order to keep overall costs within reach.

In short, the Building Committee gave Catalyst the green light to sign contracts with all sub-contractors except for the few areas where bids were still outstanding. The goal is still to get the building enclosed before the harsh winter months.



ADVANCING B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S

On several occasions presentations were made after church to our membership regarding a financial win-win for members. By investing savings in the Lutheran Association for Church Extension (LACE, our lender of choice), the member can receive a good investment return while the B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S initiative experiences a shorter loan term. To date, members and other interested parties have invested \$683,300 in this effort.

It's not at all too late to join with fellow members in this step. Investments, both large and small, will benefit both you and the project. For details, consult with a member



of the Finance Committee or pick up a copy of the informational sheet at church.



A SHORT PRAYER LIST

Many Christians find plenty to pray about without a prayer list, a list of topics they do not want to forget to pray about. Others find such a list to be helpful in focusing their prayers on important things. If you have a list, consider adding these ideas to it. If you don't, possibly place this little list wherever you do your morning or evening praying.

- Thanks for the safe delivery of tons of steel to the building site.
- Appreciation for cooperative and talented architect (Excel) and builder (Catalyst).
- A heart that's willing to engage in joyful generosity in financial support of this bold project.
- Thanks for growing school enrollment, because that means more little souls at the feet of Jesus on a daily basis.
- That God would move members and others in Wrightstown to rapidly fill the additional classrooms.

That God would grant safety to all tradesmen who work on this project.

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