



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

St John Lutheran Church & School

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REBUILD!

The Children of Israel had been captives in a foreign land for some time now, and their homeland and Jerusalem its capital were in ruins. Nehemiah, a captive Israelite, was working in the service of King Artaxerxes, the Persian king. After days of prayer to God to bless the endeavor, Nehemiah secured a commission from Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem, to serve as governor, and to rebuild its walls. There's no room here to detail the opposition he faced (including a death threat) or the seeming hopelessness of the situation, but he returned to Jerusalem to accomplish the task. (The first six chapters of Nehemiah give the details – give them a read!)

When he told the Israelite stragglers what he was commissioned to do, they could have thought of countless excuses to oppose him, and those excuses would have made sense to any who heard them.

- ◆ “For decades we've struggled just to stay alive in this land, and you want us to rebuild the entire wall system? Count me out!”
- ◆ “Where's the money going to come from? Get real!”
- ◆ “Those who oppose the plan are great in number! No good can possibly come from this.”
- ◆ “Maybe in the future, but not now.”
- ◆ “I'll help, but only if I like the design.”

But that was not their reaction. “They said, 'Let's get up and rebuild.' Then they encouraged each other for this good work” (Nehemiah 2:18).

“The fellowship of other believers provides support for my spiritual life.” - Terry Sieker

IT'S TIME FOR US ALSO TO REBUILD

We may not be large in number by some measures, but proportionately we are surely larger than Israel's remnant in Jerusalem. And more prosperous!

Therefore, excuses aside, “Let's get up and rebuild,” rebuild our split campus into one, our crumbling and inadequate buildings into new.

Nehemiah's God is also our God. Just as Nehemiah prayed mightily for several days, so can we. Just as Nehemiah credited the hand of his God, so can we.

And Chapter Three tells the exciting story of how all Israel put their hand to the task and made rapid progress. (Read it, and be inspired.)



WHAT WE'VE GOT

Nehemiah doesn't report what tools or “money in the bank” they had to start with, but we can safely assume it wasn't much. That can't be said of us. We are a congregation rather richly blessed with talent, and we're surely not starting with nothing. The following available assets were recently reported:

B.O.L.D. S.T.E.P.S Promises (from 63 households)	\$457,600
Endowment Building and Gym Fund	\$69,800
Endowment Capital Building Fund	\$323,500
Endowment Parking Lot Fun	\$20,400
Endowment Undesignated*	\$200,000

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Cemetery Fund*	\$50,000
Church/Parsonage Sale	+ or - \$400,000
School-held Building Fund CDs	\$27,000
Available Assets	\$1,548,300

In addition, there is considerable equity in our Plum Road property, which is fully paid for.

*These amounts were overwhelmingly approved for transfer to the Capital Building Fund by the Voters Assembly.

BUILD WHAT?

Your Building Committee has had two meetings since B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S Promise totals were added up by the capital campaign leadership. The Building Committee gave thoughtful consideration to presently available funds together with general information regarding borrowing limits and mortgage rates. While they recognized what a blessing today's low mortgage interest rates are, they also recognized that building the entire ministry tool on Plum Road as currently designed will not be possible. What to build, and how to reduce construction costs while maintaining durability, attractiveness, and functionality became the subject of serious discussion. To that end, Tom Schermerhorn (Excel Engineering), Eric Williams (Director of Preconstruction for Catalyst Construction), and Steve Widmer (Catalyst Ministry Solutions Group) met with the Building Committee in early February. They will meet again soon virtually so that they can share with us more precise information based on several directions we gave them:

- ◆ Assume for now that we will build the school, a gym, and the commons.
- ◆ The commons will be used mostly for worship purposes, and should seat 150 worshippers.
- ◆ Reduce the size of the gym, but in a way that allows for a decent basketball court and for expansion in the future.
- ◆ Construct the gym with pre-engineered metal rather than precast concrete panels.
- ◆ Use vinyl tile instead of a wood floor in the gym.

- ◆ Plan to do some site-work in the fall of 2021, with actual construction to begin in early spring of 2022.

Be assured that no final decisions have been made on any of the above points. The Building Committee is simply doing the long slow task of gathering information in order to make a viable proposal to the congregation at a later date. You can expect that one or more Open Forums will be part of that process so that all will receive information first-hand and have opportunity for input.

DISPOSE OF WHAT?

The Property Disposition Committee has conducted two walk-throughs with realtors familiar with selling properties of this sort. Property Disposition is not only trying to get better information on what sale price we might expect, but also whether and how the property might be divided when it is put on the market.

Q & A What will happen to items that do not make the trip to Plum Road? No discussions have dealt with that important question yet, but be assured that such discussions will be had, with an emphasis on recognizing the donors of various items and the interests of the membership. Share your thoughts with the Communications Committee.



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