

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Church and Daycare

The Case or Rationale for Ministry and Building Expansion

Vision, Mission and History

In the mid-1800s the Lord saw fit to draw Lutheran Christians together to found St. Paul's Lutheran Church. God's love for His people created a heart in His people for one another, for the community and for the world at large. St. Paul's mission statement reveals our calling: "to celebrate and share the love of Christ within our congregation, community and world." Standing on the foundation prepared for us we envision St. Paul's to be a totally integrated congregation, school, and early childhood ministry to families, youth, and children for the sake of Kingdom expansion.

The church was founded in 1863, the school in 1865, and the daycare in 1997. We worship in our third facility, built in 1955, gothic, spacious and beautiful. We installed an elevator in 1991 so that building accessibility was more conducive to people with physical challenges. In 1963 we expanded onsite to bring the school ministry facilities into close proximity to the congregation ministry facilities. An addition was built onto the school in 1995 to accommodate our growing school and daycare ministry. By the grace of God, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, & Daycare strives to serve our Lord, one another and our community, making a Kingdom impact.

The Need

God has blessed us with growth in our congregation, school and daycare. However, cultural and demographic changes in our community are presenting us with some exciting opportunities and challenges for St. Paul's ministry. These factors have created the need for two different yet related ministry expansions.

School Ministry Expansion Situation:

Education Facilities. The 1963 and 1995 expansions served us well. However, the ministry needs have outgrown our facilities. We are out of space completely. Closets and storage rooms have been converted to needed offices, a special needs room and a computer lab. The conference room is used for art classes. The 5th grade classroom meets in the basement. The afterschool care program now shares the cramped youth room. Daycare space is converted from regular classrooms, but not a good fit for daycare needs. We currently have a two-year waiting list for our infant and toddler daycare.

School Ministry Expansion Plans:

We envision a 20,480 square foot, two story addition (no basement) on the newly acquired property to the north of the existing building, with one story office and storage addition of 1,800 square feet at the southeast corner of the school, at a total proposed cost of \$3.97 million. First floor would be the daycare wing, with six classrooms, a small office and a large muscle room. The second floor would provide six additional classrooms and an open area for library use. A small elevator/lift would also be added at the Ringold Street entrance, providing access from entrance level to first and second floors and tunnel level. Prior to breaking ground, we would need to add a called Early Childhood Director to our staff, at a minimum annual cost of \$60,000 (wages and benefits).

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Church and Daycare The Case or Rationale for Ministry and Building Expansion

Other advantages include: 1) much needed storage space; 2) a larger youth room; 3) a secure daycare wing designed to specifically meet daycare needs, allow for growth, and allow us to meet future licensing requirements.

Church Ministry Expansion Situation:

Gathering Space. In 1955 a Narthex was a small space for keeping coats while people were in worship. The need for a gathering area did not exist.

Times, culture, and relationships have changed drastically since the 1950s. Having a welcoming and hospitable space large enough and conducive for building and promoting relationships outside of worship and education is greatly needed. People who are only loosely connected to our church and school, and drop-in infrequently are far less likely to connect with us when we have no room to gather for conversation and promoting interest in one another.

Our current Narthex does not facilitate relationship building, and, is an obstacle and hinderance to promoting being a warm and inviting congregation of God's people.

Church Ministry Expansion Plans:

We envision a 9,635 square foot, three-story addition at a proposed cost of \$2.24 million to the immediate south of the new circle drive. This requires a demolition of the existing parsonage. A new elevator would provide people with access to all three floors and the sanctuary balcony. The main floor (sanctuary level) would be one large multi-purpose room with seating for 120 and access present narthex area. The Basement level would have storage, one meeting room, bathrooms, and fellowship hall overflow.

Other advantages include: 1) A more defined and accessible "main entry"; 2) Sufficient and visible space for an information center; 3) Accessible space for gathering before and after services, including seating space for those unable to stand for any length of time; 4) A small kitchen and enough space on the sanctuary level to accommodate smaller gatherings; for example, small group Bible study and fellowship, small funeral luncheons; 5) Storage space for grounds equipment and large seasonal items, for example, the nativity set.

Next Steps

We will conduct a Feasibility Study with the help of Lutheran Church Extension Fund to determine our members' and friends' capacity to support this project financially. Secondly, if needed, determine the best course for phasing the project. Thirdly, determine how to raise up people and dollars for supporting our project.