



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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News and Information - Building Plans and Other Matters **Pastor John Klatt**

Greetings in the New Year! As we make our way into what promises to continue to be a very important time in the history of St. John's my goal is to be helpful for good communication and community building in our congregation. To that end, here is a list of specific goals I promise to work at and as well some reminders and clarifications about where we have been and where we are going.

Goals for St. John's:

- Encourage communications so that members know how to be involved in ongoing decisions.
- Work with the council so that there are updates on council actions in each edition of the Crossbeam newsletter.
- Practice good conflict management with such disciplines as being thoughtful, open, aware, patient, take responsibility for self, clear, objective, and listening to understand the point of view of others.

Where we have been:

- In January of 2009 we were encouraged to discontinue use of the church building due to safety concerns. The church council concurred with this advice and we have shared worship in the Parish Hall since then.
- In May a congregational vote was taken to stay on this property, tear down the old church building and build a new worship space.
- Part of the decision to stay meant that boilers would have to be replaced. This task has recently been accomplished with what should be a major cost savings in energy bills.
- Rick Lipka has worked to form committees that among other tasks have endeavored to gather opinions about what are the specific needs for ministry our new build ought to include, fundraising and prepare for drawing up specifics for the new build.
- Updated concept drawings are on display in the hallway of the educational building.

Where we are going:

- For a full outline please review a document entitled **Building Update January 2010** which is available either online and/or as a hard copy in the narthex of the church.
- A major capital funds campaign to raise necessary funding for the new build is set to begin on Sunday, April 11 with a commitment Sunday on May 16. We will be working with a representative from the ELCA Key Leader program.

Clarifications

- There was never a question that the old church building could not be saved. The decision at the meeting on May 17, 2009 was that such repairs would be too costly.
- There were no additional costs for the organ to be placed in the parish hall. The funds to accomplish the organ installation in the parish hall were equal to or close to storage costs.
- The reason that we have not begun construction for our new church building is because we had neither the specific mission requirements thought out for our needs and we did not have the funds. Projected costs at the May 17 meeting were up to 1.5 million dollars.