“Opening New Doors”

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ  Colossians 4:3
Introduction

The Lord has been so gracious to the 125 plus years of ministry at St. Paul’s! We are grateful for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us, a body of believers, and wish to continually give him the glory for all things. Yes, “the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever!”

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church has been studying and exploring options for a comprehensive building update and expansion program for several years. We have been blessed with our current facilities and have been faithful stewards of them over the years. It appears now is the time to address several space issues needing attention, most of which relate to our school facilities. We wish to lay before St. Paul’s members a plan for updating and expanding our facilities.

It appears the Lord is leading us to explore options for our building complex. To begin that journey we will ……

Seek consensus from the St. Paul families to better focus on our building update and expansion plans.

The theme chosen for our planning is Opening New Doors. Our leaders realize this ministry’s focus is on connecting people with God’s Word. Our purpose for existence is to “open new doors” with others so that faith is built and Jesus Christ proclaimed. Our proposed building expansion and update proposal will be another way to connect with others.

Our vision is for St. Paul’s to construct an addition that will be more functional for our members and provide space for activities in welcoming non-members from the community. The ultimate goal is a building, a tool for ministry, to better share Jesus with the Onalaska community. This building will enable us to continue connecting with those who need what is missing in their lives, a spiritual relationship with Jesus.

The cornerstone of a building determines the design and orientation of the entire building process. It is the most significant stone, a tested stone at the corner. Jesus is the foundation of all our earthly decisions, and it should be with Him that we start to begin planning for any expansion effort.

It is important for everyone to be included in this process. Our ministry is founded on groups of people, individuals, parents, and children all coming together for a common cause. We are so grateful to have you as part of the St. Paul’s “family”. Thank you for your partnership!

May Jesus, our Cornerstone, guide us through this entire endeavor. May He bless our work as we move forward with him at our side!
Why are we doing all of this?

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus stated a mission which should occupy his believers until he returns: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you* (Matthew 28:19–20). We believe in that mission and use it as a guide for our very own purpose statement.

*Our mission by God’s love and command is to share the Gospel in its truth and purity. We will use God’s Word and Sacraments to bring the lost to Christ and strengthen one another’s faith.*

Stated another way, our purpose is to make disciples. This effort of making disciples has two parts: reaching out and nurturing — **reaching out** to those who do not know Jesus and **nurturing** the faith of those who are already confess Jesus as Lord.

We **reach out** to others spiritually when we share with them the good news that Jesus, God's Son, is also their Savior. We do this by both telling them about God's grace and living out that grace so others will glorify our Father. Telling others about Jesus is a privilege our Savior has given to every believer individually; it also belongs to our congregation. We take this privilege seriously because sharing the gospel honors our dear Father and because without faith in Jesus only hell awaits.

**Nurturing** faith requires contact with the gospel. *Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ* (Romans 10:17). A key component to our ministry is gospel-center education where God's Word is shared with our children. Our buildings, which are simply tools, have been a significant blessing in helping us **nurture** the faith of our members and children over the years.

For St. Paul’s to do our best at making disciples now and in the future requires action. Your leaders believe the bold action required at this time is to update and expand our facilities. We believe it is one that best serves the Kingdom for many years to come. The following pages outline our plan so that we can better support our mission of **reaching out** to those who do not know Jesus and **nurturing** those who do. These plans are open for discussion and debate. We look forward to your input and reaction as we march together in sharing Jesus with more and more people. May God bless the efforts of *Opening New Doors.*

*You will find in your material a vision statement which is a summary of our Long Range Ministry Plan. We invite your input and reaction!*
BUILDING EXPANSION

St. Paul’s Lutheran School exists to nurture the Christian faith of children whose parents are members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. 73% of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church school age children are enrolled in the school. We rejoice that a good majority of our parents are making use of the school assisting them with their parental responsibilities.

St. Paul Lutheran School is a major draw for new members joining our church. During the past 10 years, out of the 445 new members joining St. Paul Lutheran Church, 192 (43%) had some type of connection with the school. The process of identifying, encouraging, and assimilating non-members through our school is part of our congregation’s overall evangelism effort, one of our major outreach efforts. Investing in our school is investing in our church.

St. Paul’s Membership Transactions
Building Update and Expansion Project
Master Site Priorities

Two new classrooms
Enlarged and expanded offices

New gymnasium
Fireside room

Youth meeting room
New church restrooms
What are the identified limitations with our present buildings?

We view St. Paul’s as an outreach-focused, welcoming, family-oriented congregation. In order to carry out that vision, we rely on our buildings as tools in assisting us, God’s people, for ministry work. When buildings interfere or become a barrier to ministry work, it is most prudent to assess the situation. Your leaders believe an expanded campus will provide more space for our growing Lutheran elementary school which directly impacts future church growth.

Our mission is to share God’s Word with our members and others, as often and in as many ways possible. Our buildings are tools to support our combined ministry work. The following are identified as objectives to help improve the effectiveness of our overall ministry effort. Our desire is to have:

Classroom space meeting the needs of a growing school …..
- Minimum of two classrooms to provide adequate instructional space for current classes
- Removes from the basement one classroom, library, and Surround Care room; eliminates a classroom in the fellowship hall

Enlarged Multipurpose / Gymnasium Area augments many educational functions …..
- Current gym size raises safety concerns due to the tightness of court boundaries to seating on stage and nearby walls
- Provides flexibility in hosting fellowship events for both church and school functions
- Groups associated with St. Paul’s may also benefit from the additional space (concerts, adult groups, teens, Jesus Cares, seniors, dinners, etc.)
- Allows more to be accomplished for recess and Physical Education with the students during inclement days (rain, cold and snow), a larger space provides more student options for physical activity helping with physical growth and development
- Permits more space for school plays, talent nights, practice events and other large venues

Redesigned school entrance area …..
- Welcoming entryway for guests and parents
- Creates office space and student sick room
- Addresses entrance (safety) concerns providing a safe environment for our children
- Maintains the current number of parking lot spaces for church functions
- Streamlined traffic flow and safety for both school and church drop-off/pickup

Locker room and bathrooms …..
- Adding locker rooms connected to the gymnasium
- Locating new bathrooms in closer proximity to the church sanctuary
- Providing larger and more conveniently located bathrooms for the school

Fireside room …..
- Additional meeting space and Bible study room for adults and teens
- Space for funeral visitation, bridal party preparations, small worship space and library

The reality we are confronted with is central to our mission:  
Our facility is not adequate for growing our ministry.
What are the preliminary cost and income projections?

In order to fund our expansion, the primary sources for funds will be an all member funding appeal and a commercial loan.

The first step in developing a financial plan for building updates is to implement a funding appeal. Once it is known what our members will give toward a 3-year over-and-above gift, we will be in a better position to determine how much to borrow, the rate and the term. A financial plan, including cash and commitments, will be developed prior to moving forward. As always, the congregation has final decision each step of the way.

- 3-Year funding appeal: $1,500,000 to $2,000,000
- Commercial loan: $1,300,000 to $1,800,000
- Current debt for church: $320,000

**Total Estimated Cost:** $3,000,000

What are the next steps?

The Lord has blessed our work to this point in time. We trust his guidance for the future! We have a good start, but know there is still much to be done. The following steps are offered as tentative guides. At every step of the way, the congregation has the decision to stop, place on hold, or move forward with each action or proposal. The timeline below is actually a series of events leading up to project completion. The timeline may be modified or adjusted per congregation decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 2017</th>
<th>July 2017</th>
<th>Fall 2017</th>
<th>Winter 2018</th>
<th>Spring, 2018 or Fall, 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inform, Ignite and Interest; all member contact with Open Forums</td>
<td>Approve concept plans, preliminary financial plan, and funding appeal</td>
<td>Every member funding appeal</td>
<td>Revise financial and concept plans, if needed; begin accumulating funds for down-payment</td>
<td>Prepare and approve final drawings, permits, seek bids, etc.; approval to break ground; construction is a 10-12 month process</td>
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Our Guiding Assumptions for Planning

The following assumptions have served as our guide in planning:

- St. Paul’s desires to place an emphasis and priority upon outreach in order to better share Jesus with more and more people (Mark 16:15) in a welcoming atmosphere.
- Major decisions at St. Paul’s always require a high level of trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5).
- Based on financial resources and blessings, our building and update plans seek to fall within a reasonable cost range.
- Christian education is a major ministry of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.
- St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School is in need of Bible study / group space, additional student classrooms and a multipurpose / gymnasium.
- Building expansion and update plans should strive to address long-term (5 - 15 years) ministry goals of better connecting with our growing community.
- Congregation input into the decision making process is important.

We Need Your Input!

The decision to further the purpose of St. Paul’s through an updating and building expansion project is not an easy decision, nor is it a one-time decision. Rather the process involves several smaller decisions along the way. We now invite everyone’s input to ensure that we are heading in the right direction. In order for us to continue Opening New Doors, it is important for all of us to be involved. In the days and weeks to come, please freely give your thoughts on the best options for St. Paul’s to further the kingdom. Opening New Doors offers an opportunity for each of us at St. Paul’s to give input and direction for our ministry. May God bless our efforts!

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jared Wickus, Chairperson</td>
<td>608-239-3008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Elliott</td>
<td>608-769-0782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Fillner</td>
<td>608-317-9110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew Gronholz</td>
<td>608-769-9782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mueller</td>
<td>608-783-2432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor Olson</td>
<td>608-797-5793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Paggi</td>
<td>608-783-7710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Powell</td>
<td>608-769-2173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Schibbelhut</td>
<td>608-781-8550</td>
</tr>
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