

Our Building – a Center for Mission

Gathering place for the Faithful!

Sending place for the Faithful!

Place for the Community!

Center for Mission: GATHERING

- WORSHIP – We gather around God’s Word and Sacraments, which are the ways God uses to create and nurture faith in Christ crucified and raised for God’s gift of forgiveness and life.
- LEARNING – Children, Youth, and Adults learn the scriptures, the creeds, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Lutheran writings, so that the gospel of Jesus Christ may speak to them. Learning gives us a vocabulary of faith, and call us to practice discipleship.
- LEARNING AND CARING – 120 children and their parents come here for Child Care and Preschool – a safe and caring place where they hear about Jesus.

Center for Mission: GATHERING

- + MUSICIANS GATHER for choir and bell choir to lead worship.
- CHILDREN AND YOUTH GATHER once again for faith and families ministry so that they will know throughout their lives that “Jesus Christ is Lord.”
- LEADERS AND COMMITTEES GATHER to develop, plan, and carry out ministry in Christ’s name.
- CONCERTS gather people for the joy of music.

Center for Mission: **SENDING**

- + MEMBERS live out faith in home, school, work, and hobby – this is the most important part of sending, but then there are other ways of living out the faith...
- + FOOD PANTRY volunteers
- + DISASTER volunteers
- + MEALS ON WHEELS volunteers
- + COMMUNION VISITORS

Center for Mission: **SENDING**

- + NURSING HOME visitors
- + CROP WALK people
- + DIAPER TRANSPORTERS for the pantry
- + POTATO TRANSPORTERS for the pantry
- + MEALS, RIDES & VISITORS for the sick
- + KNITTING PRAYER SQUARES for people

Center for Mission: PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY

- + BOY SCOUTS
- + CUB SCOUTS
- + GIRL SCOUTS
- + GABRIEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
- + GARDEN CLUB
- + HOSTING BLOODMOBILE for council of churches

Center for Mission: GATHERING, SENDING, A COMMUNITY PLACE

- + Our church building is beautiful
- + Our church building is spacious
- + Our church building is well-used *for ministry AND it is a resource to pass on for future mission & discipleship*
- + **BUT** our building is now 22 years old
- + **AND** two parts of our building have hit or are reaching their expected life...**THE ROOF and the HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND VENTILATION SYSTEM (HVAC for short)**

Center for Mission: GATHERING, SENDING, A COMMUNITY PLACE

- + Both the roof and HVAC are beyond our skills and knowledge to plan for their replacement.
- + We do not have the ability to draw up specifications
- + We do not know what options there might be
- + We sometimes do not even know what questions to ask, especially since energy is one of our biggest expenses! SO...

Center for Mission: GATHERING, SENDING, A COMMUNITY PLACE

- + Church Council and the Property Committee invited Arthur Funk & Sons Construction Services to review our building and meet with us for suggestions.
- + Funk comes highly recommended, has worked with churches for three generations, and only charges a fee on actual construction – so talk and advice needs no upfront money!
- + Funk will give options, develop specifications, seek out contractors, and help oversee bidding and general work – our meeting was fruitful!!!

Center for Mission: THE ROOF

- + Our *flat roof* has an expected life of 15-20 years.
- + Our flat roof is BIG – 19,768 square feet!
- + A flat roof is a rubber sheet attached to vertical parapets (low walls) that then runs across the flat portion of the roof. The flat part is covered with fine gravel.
- + The rubber is cracked and pulling away from walls due to age, and has already caused several leaks around the building
- + Ballpark cost – \$127,700 (no bids yet, an estimate)

Center for Mission: THE ROOF

- + Our *shingle roof* is steep, and also large – 8,488 square feet.
- + It probably has life left, although we occasionally have to replace shingles that are blown away. However the very steep pitch of the roof means that instead of workers doing repairs directly while standing on the roof, a lift has to be brought in at additional expense.
- + Replacing this part of the roof may be postponed for several years.

Center for Mission: THE HVAC

- + We have three large HVAC units – one each for the nave (40 tons), social hall (25 tons), and other spaces (35 tons)
- + Currently we are all electric, which is very costly
- + Alternatives are limited: ceiling fans do not help with a ceiling so high, the town does not have a natural gas line, and we have not boiler room for oil. Funk tells us that solar and geothermal are not practical for our building & land in this state.
- + Our choices seem to be to remain all-electric or maybe to go to a combination of electric and LP gas. More research will be needed.

Center for Mission: THE HVAC

- + Heatpump-LP Units ballpark \$181,00 – \$220,350
- + Plus Architecture, Engineering, Site Work, complications, fees, insurance, etc. for both the roof and the HVAC work.

Center for Mission: HOW DO WE PAY FOR THIS?

1. Don't panic – the first step (calling Funk) was so helpful!
2. Every church has to face major building costs about once every generation – and now is our time!
3. Congregations facing replacements like ours need to continue to give generously to the regular, ongoing ministry of the congregation which already gathers and sends believers, and welcomes the community.
4. Congregations like ours need a Capital Campaign for commitments and giving lasting several years, over and above our regular giving.

Center for Mission: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- WE INVITED Pastor Mike Bennethum from NEPa Synod to tell us some basics about Capital Campaigns.
- Capital Campaigns are not part of our experience.
- In a Capital Campaign a consultant is hired from a Campaign company to work with us – SAVING MONEY TO TRY TO DEVELOP AND DO A CAMPAIGN OURSELF IS AN INVITATION TO DISASTER!
- A consultant will work with us, guide us, and help us through a process where as many people as possible are involved in educating, asking and committing

Center for Mission: ROOF, HVAC, AND CAMPAIGN – WHAT NOW?

- Pray, and be of good cheer! God has gifted us with this marvelous building, and God has stirred up ministry in this place for both the sake of God's people, and the world!!!
- Other congregations do this, and so can we!
- Continue to be a faithful part of the community in worship, learning, giving, serving and witnessing.
- Give a weekly offering whether you are here or not (stacks of envelopes or electronic giving), and as always, a prayerful annual increase!
- Planned giving – wills, special gifts, memorials.

Center for Mission: ROOF, HVAC, AND CAMPAIGN – WHAT NOW?

- We need volunteers for a Building Task Force (which already includes many of our property folks), but there is much yet to consider and do!
- We need volunteers for a Capital Appeal Team to learn about capital appeals (I've been a pastor during three of them), choose a campaign company, and help lead the appeal.
- WHEN? Goal of getting started by the end of 2018! The roof won't get better, and the HVAC repairs are now throwing good money after bad.