



Program Statement

April 2017

Long Range Planning Council

Faith Lutheran Church
Preschool & Extended Childcare
*A Member Congregation of the
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

History

In 1962, a group of committed Lutherans elected to start a mission Church in accordance with the doctrine of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The new group formed a congregation called Faith Lutheran on the far west side of Columbus. The name of the church being "Faith" was very deliberate because it appropriately described the most important thing of the congregation was very deliberate "Faith" characteristic of the members in building this mission congregation on the far west side of Columbus. The members knew through hard work and prayer the Lord would guide their steps. The new congregation was dedicated to declaring the truth of Scripture to the people that attended.

In 1966, the church members took a bold step and built a wonderful church building west of town on State Road 46. The church was supported and blessed by the dedication of larger Lutheran community with significant visiting attendance from area churches. This strong start sustained Faith through the early years and with hard work and a strong blessing we have become a vibrant place to worship with strong and authentic support from its members.

Through the next 50 years our Church has expanded and contracted its membership numbers. The Church enjoys a great mix of newer members and many, some long standing members. The members of Faith Our congregation has always been close to each other with caring and loving fellowship. We have been blessed with only 3 senior pastors in our 55 year history. All were unique in their talents however all 3 brought the love of Christ and the truth from the Scriptures.

Faith's Purpose

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity.

It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

—*Faith Constitution, 1962*

Long Term Vision (7-10 years)

As a congregation we are working to develop a long term vision for our congregation and church facilities. Up to now, decisions related to facility maintenance and upgrades have been made based upon the interests and the priorities of the day. All of these decisions have been discussed and agreed to by the congregation.

As the facility approaches the 60 year mark we know there are significant upgrade possibilities. We elected to develop a long term vision for the congregation and facility to make sure that all decisions are wise and aimed aligned by a at a long term plan. We also know that we are blessed with a wonderful location in Columbus very close to significant growth and development. Faith is blessed with a 12 acre campus allowing for growth and flexibility. The Long Range Planning Committee has concerns that the lack of a long term vision might be holding us back from reaching more people in the community.

The Lord has blessed us by allowing our church to grow our Preschool and After School program from 8-10 children to over 50 today. The reputation for our program is so strong that we forecast that we could enroll up to 100 children by 2020. This has been a blessing but it has brought some growing pains that are positive. The Church location is positioned in a perfect place that allows this growth with more neighborhood growth planned and expected. We find ourselves stretched from a facility perspective.

We also find that our fellowship space is limiting many gatherings. We have become accustomed to using the space well but find many people don't attend fellowship activities when the fellowship hall is too crowded. We also find that our space is too small to support the parents of the children's program. We see the need to expand our fellowship hall and the adjoining kitchen to allow great space to have fellowship (*picnic, funeral luncheons, pitchins*) and preschool activities while being more inviting.

Our Needs

The Long Range Planning Committee has developed a list of priorities with help from our membership through surveys and voter meeting updates. The team has also engaged with St Paul Lutheran given their recent expansion to learn about the building process and receive coaching and advice on how to advance this concept with the congregation fully engaged.

The Long Range Planning team anticipates a multiphase approach to completing facility improvements. We propose that we engage an architect to assist us in conceptualizing and estimating construction/remodeling costs for the following projects which have been identified through member surveys:

Guiding Principles

- ☞ Any facility upgrades need to align to a long-term master plan to make best use of resources.
- ☞ We expect our educational & extended care programs to grow faster than our congregational membership.
- ☞ Any facility changes need to make accommodation for all abilities and an aging population.
- ☞ We must be good stewards of all gifts received.

Possibilities Under Consideration

- ✧ Redesign and expand the current fellowship and kitchen space.
- ✧ Restroom Upgrades
- ✧ Upgrade and/or expand the existing restroom facilities.
- ✧ Create restroom facilities for the preschool and afterschool students
- ✧ Reconfigure or expand the current preschool classroom space.
- ✧ Create a more visible access stair to the lower level to allow increased usage
- ✧ Reconfigure the lower level to include modest bathroom and kitchenette facilities.
- ✧ Reconfigure the sanctuary to accommodate more space for the choir and/or musicians.
- ✧ Redesign or replace the lighted sign located on State Road 46
- ✧ Explore the possibilities of adding a small parking area and church entrance on the south side (facing SR 46W) to allow easier handicap access and staff parking.

Our Plan

The Long-Range Planning Council has spent over a year soliciting input and evaluating options to determine the best, most cost-effective way to meet our building needs. The team has been particularly eager not to throw money away on temporary building solutions, but to have each building project contribute to a facility that will serve our church and educational activities for years into the future. For this reason, the Faith Voters Assembly endorsed the development of a plan to explore options to maintain, upgrade and possibly expand the facility. Our current stated estimate for the projects outlines above is \$700,000. This estimate needs to be confirmed by more study and with the assistance of an architect. For that reason, the committee proposes employing an architect to help us define potential needs based on standard planning data and the views expressed by our church community. As noted earlier, we anticipate implementing a long range master plan in phases, but we want to further develop each concept so we can see how all the pieces fit together over time.

Our Commitment

Our ministry vision moves us beyond ourselves to depend on the Lord as we engage people with the Gospel in a loving community. Our vision for our facilities is no different, pushing us beyond ourselves in serving others and following the Lord by faith. Therefore, we will spend the coming months praying, “Dear Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision for our church? Help me discern a sacrifice for our capital campaign that is meaningful and joyful.” We do not seek equal gifts from families, but equal sacrifice. We believe God is calling us as a church to be active in sharing the gospel in our community as we worship, grow, and serve together in Him.

We look forward to working with the entire congregation as we embark on this journey!

Role of Long Range Planning Council

This council shall consist of five members whose term of office shall be five years. One member shall be elected each year by the Voters’ Assembly. They shall organize and elect a chairman, who shall represent them in all matters before the Church Council and the Voters’ Assembly, by the January meeting of each year. The representative to the Church Council will not have a vote on that council. Members of this council may concurrently hold another church office.

This council will meet in January and July of each year, and more often if deemed necessary by its members, to formulate, consider, and present plans and ideas to applicable committees, boards, or councils that pertain to the future growth of the congregation, the long-range utilization of the church properties, or projects that represent significant investment by the congregation.

—Faith Lutheran Church, Bylaws

***Site & Facility Use Analysis - Observations
Faith Lutheran Church - Columbus, IN***

Design Principles

The formulae within the spreadsheet used for this evaluation have been developed by the AAC for evaluating the norm for congregational facilities.

Worship

Based on your Active Membership of 140 and average attendance of 91, your current seating is more than adequate. However, as Active Membership increases, your worship space seating will increase. When your service attendance reaches 160, the Sanctuary will seem full and unwelcoming to visitors.

Fellowship

The Fellowship space appears to be deficient by 16% of the space suggested for accommodating 84 people. This appears to agree with your own evaluations.

Education

The Pre-school space is 16% of the space suggested for accommodating your current size. As you expand the size and scope of the Pre-school and the before/after-school care, you would need to build an addition, as you have suggested.

The Sunday School program seems to be far short of the "norm" for church design.

Administration

The Church/School office space appears to be currently adequate. I would suggest that as pre-school space is added that additional office space could be included, or relocated in the new space.

Parking

The actual number of seats currently in your Sanctuary, 220, would allow a ratio of 1.67 persons per parking space. The norm is 2.5 to 3.0 persons per car, therefore I see no need to increase parking.

Site

As you can see, the current property is well above is needed currently. It appears that the addition, currently contemplated, would fit within the "build-able" area of your site.

Yours in Christ,
Donald F. Amt, AIA
LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee member
