

Space to Grow.

grow in development. grow in community. Grow in Faith.



Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

What: Unanimously approved project (by the Planning Council and Executive Committee) to complete the shelled in room under the new Gathering Space, adjacent to 2-3 year old Sunday School rooms & Promise Preschool.

Why: To be used as a safe and educational multipurpose room for many of the little people of First Lutheran Church, including Sunday School, Promise Preschool, and Lutheran Social Service, with the bonus of an adult education space available on the sanctuary level.

As the New Gathering Space has been completed, we reflect on how a well-planned building can facilitate fellowship, conversation, a welcoming atmosphere and especially faith. Fortunately, the pastoral staff and leaders of our church had the foresight to shell in the space below the Gathering Space, in hopes of someday using it as a vehicle of practical and purposeful use. A safe, effective and comfortable educational environment for the 4-5 year old children of FLC and Promise Preschool kids could be successfully fulfilled by finishing this shelled space with minimal effort. As a domino effect of this plan, an adult education space would also be available on the same level as the sanctuary. Also, families of Lutheran Social Service could access the new educational space for large motor play.

Completion of this space will give us the opportunity and vehicle for:

- a joyful learning environment
- lifelong learning
- greater security for our children
- building relationships
- fulfilling our baptismal promises

The "Space to Grow" endeavor is rooted in our hopes for FLC and PPS to 'grow' through education - developmentally from infancy to adulthood, within our community and by outreach to expand our family and, of course, in our faith journey.

Admittedly, the main obstacle to this endeavor is financial, however the benefits to the FLC community would be great. This is much more than completing a space within four walls; it is giving our church a place for lifelong Christian education - throughout the week. As we gratefully receive contributions from our stakeholders, intentions are to begin construction once it is financially sound by being fully funded. We prayerfully anticipate financial goals to be met by the end of 2011, construction to begin the beginning of June and complete in July so the space can be used for education in September 2012.

Beneficiaries of this project would include:

- 4 & 5 year old Sunday School would benefit from this safe, focused learning environment, daily storage, as well the added benefit of having this age group close to the 2&3 year old Sunday Schoolers and their families. There would be freedom from the adult traffic that naturally occurs in the current corridor, as well as a more established foyer/cubby area for parents to wait for their children to be released. As the classes break up, they would use dividers, storing them in a closet that would be built adjacent to the mechanicals room during Preschool hours. Maps would be made for dividers to return to their designated location to retain each Sunday School classroom's "personality"; display areas would also be available. For additional breakout classroom space, intentions are to use the current "Archives" room. This room could also serve as a 4-5 year old Sunday School prep area, also with storage. Communication between Sunday School Coordinators and Promise leaders would be encouraged.
- Promise Preschool would parallel from a safe and focused learning environment. Pre-k students/teachers would have a "room" with four walls to call home during weekdays. Currently, the pre-k class uses a makeshift room which includes a small conference room and the enclosure of "cubbies" in the hallway space among passerby's of the elevator, stairwell, London Road Exit and kitchen - making a vulnerable and distracting classroom for preschoolers. Visionaries have described a space, which includes an open large motor space for the kids, especially to be used on days with inclement weather. This ideal also provides storage space for daily use, still using the basement for other storage. Fortunately, Promise already has the tables/chairs needed for classroom and Sunday School use. As a benefit of the additional space, teachers could move their desks into the small conference room, giving a secure office, as well as additional classroom space and room for the 2&3 year old Sunday Schoolers.
- First Lutheran Church has historically and currently embraced youth with excellent education programming. Following this legacy, we recognize that we are all children of God. As Pastor Larson explains, we also look to decades old research that states "the best youth ministry is mediocre adult ministry". We can best "pass on the faith" to the young people of our congregation by modeling lifelong education and Sunday School for everyone. This being said, premium adult education space, as well as desirable youth education space is of great interest.

With the old 4&5 year old room vacant, this could be an ideal location for adult education. On the same level as the sanctuary and gathering space, easy access would be available and unavoidable after worship. Also, for those with children, this location would be between education floors of youth in Sunday School and the same floor as the nursery. While the target demographic audience for this space would be parents of Sunday Schoolers, it is meant to be used for all adults, across the generations. This would be a time for those going to either the 8:30 or 11:00 worship to convene for extended meaningful education. It is noted that there would need to be a more formal adult education program.

- Lutheran Social Service could utilize the large motor aspect of this space for children during family visits on Tuesday evenings. The close proximity to the kitchen and Parish Hall provides a convenient flow for those receiving services.

Needs List to Complete Space for Optimal Education Use

- space finished "to code" (Fire Inspector) and Rule 3 (Department of Health) requirements, in addition to a pleasant and productive learning environment
- welcoming doorway/entry area for new space
- storage
 - closet finished off for divider storage, by the mechanical room
 - stand alone bookshelves/storage, perhaps from Lakeshore Learning, IKEA or School Outfitters
- display boards and other teaching aids
- dividers

Wish List for Spaces, should budget be available

- new carpeting in adjacent Sunday School/Preschool room
- new adult size furniture for adult education room

Thoughts about Financing the Project

Before starting construction, we are intentional about having a financially sound and funded project through contributions. It should be noted that this timeline is an attempt to be respectful of mission, TFR efforts, as well as Promise operation fundraising.

- *We prayerfully hope to reach our fundraising goals by the end of 2011.*
- Promise Preschool held a garage sale in June in which the board invited the FLC congregation to donate items. The PPS Board has initiated giving with the entirety of these proceeds to this project; we are excited to offer this gesture of over \$5,000.
- George Rennan, Chair, will gain commitments to contribute from our Steering Team, approaching 100%.
- The Board of Education proposes to have Board representatives make donation/pledge feasibility contacts, with a limited number of potential interested givers, to explore their interest in contributing toward the cost of completing the undeveloped space under the Gathering Space for use by Promise Preschool and as Sunday School classrooms. The contacts would be designed and implemented in coordination with: the Board of Stewardship; Ann Niedringhaus, Time for Renewal Fund Development volunteer; and Rebecca Sundquist, newly hired FLC Foundation grant contract staff member. The contacts would occur before the end of September 2011 and resume in December 2011.
- An effort was made to hold a social event to share the news regarding the project, however due to busy summer schedules, the event was not held. We are, however, encouraged by the excitement that this announcement brought regarding the plans, including interest in giving and being involved.
- Members of Steering will meet with the Board of Education and PPS Board to encourage giving in September and October as efforts begin.
- Information, including the project details and pledge forms, will be available at the FLC Rally (September 11th) and PPS Meet and Greet (September 8th), sponsored by Kristin Lammi of Thrivent.
- Members of the Steering Team will write a grant to the FLC Foundation, as suggested by Pastor Larson; George Rennan will take the lead on this in October, with the support of Amy Carlson and Sarah McCourtney.
- Information will be placed in the Builder/FLC website regarding donor opportunities.
- Should the funds not be met by the end of 2011, the Steering team will proceed to plan an event for the spring and sending out letters to potential grateful donors. Ideas for a giving event may be a 1K/5K "Race for Space" or encouraging giving of \$1,000 x the number of families that totals the remaining dollars needed.
- Encouraging other leaders to give after January.
- We anticipate construction to begin the end of May and complete in July.

Available for review: Preliminary draft of shelled in space for reference,
past blueprints courtesy of Krech Ojard & Associates,
estimates from Koneczny at RJS Construction Companies.

Communication

Before this proposal was made, we have communicated with many integral people of the project (some more than others), all while maintaining integrity before going public. These people include, but are not limited to: Pastor Larson and Pastor Judd, The Board of Education members, Promise Preschool Board members, Sarah Gunderson as the Director of Education, Sarah Ching as the Director of Promise Preschool, Carol Anderson & Becky Kilgore as the 4-5 year old Sunday School Coordinators, Patti Hallback & Kari Gildseth Brennan, Tom Boman and Sheryl VanScoy of the Board of Church and Society, Sara Ojard of Krech Ojard & Associates.

A Steering Team, with education as a priority, has been formed to bring this project to completion. Please see separate contact sheet, available through Anya Powell.

Contacts

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