

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is LCEF?**

The Mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and in the future. If you wish to see more about LCEF please see their website [lcef.org](http://lcef.org)

### **Why are we paying LCEF to run our campaign?**

LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) has successfully guided congregations in the past in order to accomplish their ministry goals. We were not successful in our building effort 20 years ago. We wanted some professional help to lead us in a Godly way while continuing God's ministry here in this place.

### **Why do we need a new church?**

There were structural reasons why a new church building was proposed 20 years ago. These issues have not been corrected and actually have gotten worse. The basic structural soundness of our building implies that a new church facility is necessary.

There are also ministry advantages that are hoped to be achieved:

1. Handicap accessibility to all areas.
2. Restroom facilities on the same level as the sanctuary.
3. More accommodating education, worship, and fellowship areas.

These reasons are just to name a few. Other advantages are sure to be realized as the building is being utilized.

### **How long have our current walls been tilting out?**

A long time. Since the walls were dry walled a few years ago, you can see the distance it has tilted recently. Please contact a Campaign Director if you would like to walk through our church and visually see this, or have a discussion.

### **What are the benefits of building a new church?**

Larger sanctuary, greater accessibility throughout the facility, main floor restrooms, more classrooms for children, youth and adults. We can also utilize walls for more classroom privacy and better fellowship area. Easier access to the kitchen. More storage. Better overall efficiency of spaces and use of spaces.

### **What is the new church going to look like?**

Different designs have been put forward. Two options are listed in the campaign booklet. These are to give us starting points to finalize what our intended building will need to be to serve our needs.

### **Where will the new church be?**

The predominant suggestion has been the parking lot to the south of our current building. Another option has been proposed to build off site in a new location.

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What about the possibility of building the church downtown on the old school property?**

This location has been proposed. This would provide a greater visibility from downtown Odell. There also seems to be property available. A negative response to this location has been noise and dirt generated from the elevator as well as the land possibly being in a flood plain.

### **When will construction begin?**

The beginning of construction is still to be determined by the voters of the congregation. It is likely to begin on or after the spring of 2022. The input and responses of the members during these beginning months of the campaign will give us an idea when and where the congregational members want this project to succeed.

### **Will we actually gain more members of our congregation by building a new church?**

The congregation gains members as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people apart from the building. We do not know if we will actually gain more members. We do know that when a building reaches a capacity, it is more intimidating for guests to come when the only pews available are in the front row. Our current building may be limiting our potential growth.

### **Will there be more seating for worship?**

Yes. There will be more seating available as well as more area to set up additional seating for overflow situations. The aisles will also be wider to accommodate more space for walking.

### **Will there be a place for wheelchairs in the sanctuary?**

Yes. We plan to have those spaces available.

### **Why do we need classrooms with walls?**

We have been able to teach with the use of curtains since this building was built. The current curtains were shortened by two feet in the 1990s. Children today seem to be different in many ways than from children of many years ago. Children today use multi media, causing them to learn in different ways.

We utilize electronic and visual aides in classrooms now that we were not using before. These aides are difficult to utilize without walls.

To answer a question with a question, if we are building a brand new building and are determining the best design for our classrooms, should these classrooms have walls? Would our volunteer teachers prefer walls?

### **Can we have a separate room for youth group?**

As we develop the design of the new facility, additions, changes, and modifications can be made.

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do you see our congregation still being viable in 50 years whether we have a new church or not?**

This is a question for each person to personally answer for themselves. Everyone leading this effort sees this congregation serving God and their neighbors until Jesus returns. As humanity needs to be fed, this agricultural area will always need people to raise that food. The people within our community will also need the food that comes from God and the salvation He alone gives.

### **Do you see our current structure still being able to serve that congregation in 50 years?**

Again, this is a matter of opinion. Professionals have stated that our structure is deteriorating and cannot reasonably be corrected. They have stated that they believe the roof will be the first to give way possibly due to a heavy snow load and the walls will follow as they are continuing to move outward. Nobody can see how long it will last, but there is no professional as of yet stating they are confident this building will be standing in 50 years.

### **If we end up not building a new church, will Pastor still stay with our congregation?**

THIS IS PASTOR RESPONDING PERSONALLY:

I have enjoyed serving this congregation and plan to continue to do so. I am not inclined or motivated to move my family at all. I see so much ministry growth as well as future potential. This is an exciting time for us.

I will not stay or leave because of the congregation building or not building this new facility. I also know that God can call pastors to other congregations but it is the Holy Spirit that is the force to lead to that decision.

I will say that if you see me as an ardent supporter of this new building, it is primarily due to the fact that 80% of the members have voted in favor of a new building. If 80% were opposed to the idea, I would not be pursuing this project at this point.

In addition, I am the pastor to EVERY member of this congregation, regardless of how you voted. I will love and care for you as God's children.

### **Do we need an architect?**

At this stage, we have done much of what an architect would do. If the congregation chooses to use an architect to oversee the project, we have been told that it would add another 6-8% to the total cost.

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How are we going to pay for this?**

For any one person or small group of people, this project seems insurmountable. For the families of the congregations working together, it can be accomplished. As different families, have different means, we are not speaking about everyone having equal giving. We will be speaking about equal sacrifice made by everyone. Through the generosity of God and His people, this fear will be alleviated. is the plan for borrowing money to pay for the church?

The first step is to settle on a plan to finalize the expected cost. The second is to determine the level of commitment by totaling the 3 years worth of pledges. Finally, our plan is to finance the project through LCEF or another institution.

### **How much more do I need to give than I'm already giving?**

God does not ask you to give what you do not have. We will often focus on giving as there is a need but God does not need anything. We actually are to focus on giving as we have been given. There are giving charts available to give examples of how much different levels of giving will contribute to the overall goal.

### **What if I don't want to pledge, will someone make me?**

The pledge for each individual is a commitment between you and God. There is no one who will make you pledge. That being said, it is essential that the members know the level of commitment for the congregation to move forward with decisions being made. It will be beneficial to all of us to know what everyone is willing to pledge. Names will be kept anonymous. For how can we make decisions without the knowledge of our resources?

### **What happens if we don't get enough pledges?**

As a congregation we would have to decide how to move forward or continue.

### **What happens if we can't build a new church?**

As a congregation, we will continue as we are able.

### **How can I get involved?**

There are several directors who have opportunities for you to volunteer. Important ways to help; first of all to pray for our congregation and all involved with this campaign. Another way is to get into conversations to talk about what is going on and promote the congregations' efforts.

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What has our growth been since Pastor Stuckwisch has come to OSL?**

Pastor has been here for 7 years, since then our church membership has grown from 275 to 300. This includes many deaths and births. We have had growth in Sunday School attendance. Our added Midweek classes have increased the youth coming to classes on Wednesdays, and also added to our outreach. This growth in outreach, gives us growth in adults and potential growth to come.

### **Why are 2 options being presented?**

The congregation has expressed the desire to have a choice in the decision making process. This is why options are being presented.

### **What is the square footage of Option A and Option B**

Proposed Plan A has 11,000 square feet. Proposed Plan B has 12,000 square feet.

### **What is the width of the proposed Sanctuary?**

The proposed sanctuary width of both options is 60'. Our current sanctuary is 27'.

### **What is the seating capacity of the proposed sanctuary plans compared to our present one.**

At minimum we could seat 204. At maximum 300. We fit 180 maximum currently. Need to stay at 300 or less for fire codes. There are 30 pews in our present sanctuary. There would be 34 in the new one. There is greater space and flexibility for added chairs down all of the aisles and at the back. Aisles in the proposed building are much wider than our current ones. (i.e. our current center aisles is about 48". The new one would be 72". Outer aisles now are 20". The new ones would be 48".)

### **Would the new structure sit where our current structure sits?**

The new structure would sit to the south of the current building, in our existing parking lot. The north side of Option A would be at the north edge of our current parking lot.

### **In Option A, why is there a space between the structures?**

This is strictly due to possible fire codes and not wanting the cost of a large fire wall.

### **Will there be rooms for bible study, parish hall, fellowship, prayer service?**

There will be a large fellowship hall in the education wing. This can be used for things such as funeral lunches, as opposed to having to rent the Odell community building. Narthex area in Sanctuary wing would be used for small fellowship/coffee following services, etc. Option A shows a conference room that could be an option for Bible Study or small prayer services. Possibility for Bible Studies in the education wing, sanctuary, and conference room.

### **Is there a 3rd plan option that would have a small chapel or space for larger prayer services?**

As of now, there is not. One was started, but there were too many rooflines and expenses increased too much. Design committee will keep all suggestions made in mind and can alter and add to any designs as requested, if appropriate.

### **What would happen with our current Bell?**

The plan is to have the current bell near the new facility. It has been suggested to install an electronic bell/chime system in the new building, but also have the old bell in some way.

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will we be reusing our current altar in the new sanctuary or another chapel type room?**

Our current altar will fit nicely into the new design. If we got a new altar, we would add the cost of the new altar plus approximately \$25,000 for new sets of paraments.

The altar could be free standing in the new sanctuary as there will be more space.

### **What is the plan for getting from the Main floor of Option B to the Basement?**

Stairs, elevator & walk out basement. There would not be any steps to enter the main floor from the parking lot. There would also be a covered drive through on both plans for drop offs.

### **What are the costs estimates?**

Option A - a little over \$1,000,000. Option B - \$150,000 - \$200,000 less than option A. But, again, these are just guesstimates. Option B cost may go up due to added sprinkler system & elevator. NOTE: These are very rough estimates. Plumbers & electricians will not give us any sort of estimates until they know we are serious and have a plan. Lumber prices have increased already in the last year. There is also a possibility of costs savings by using our members for as much of the construction labor as we can.

### **Some general notes on the two option designs**

Option A may not require a sprinkler system.

Option B would most likely require a sprinkler system.

The Fire Marshall will have to talk to us before we know any of this.

Both options had our current church in mind when designs were made.

Option B would have two sets of restrooms. Option A would have one restroom.

### **What is the time frame?**

There will be a Pre-Commitment Dinner on March 21 & Commitment Celebration on March 28 to determine the level of giving by our congregation and friends of the congregation over a three year period.

We will vote in April to decide what design option we would like to go with.

We will vote in July on more specific design and amount we want to spend.

Construction could begin in April of 2022

### **Can we apply for local grants to help us, such as Sandman Family or the Thomas Foundation?**

We will look into this.

*If anyone in the congregation is familiar with this topic, please let us know if you can help.*

# INFORM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will be on the exterior of the building for materials?**

To be determined, but the plans/elevations show a brick veneer beltline (partially up the side) with a Smartside lap siding. (This is what is on the parsonage)

### **How do we know when we have enough commitments to build the church?**

After the Commitment Celebration Dinner held on the March 21st, and the Commitment Celebration during church service on March 28th, we should have our numbers in on how much we have for commitments.

### **Will we look into solar power, heat pumps, etc. for the new church?**

That will be up to the design team, when they are working on the details. They will look at all options and compare prices.

### **Will we be doing any fundraisers to help out with the cost of the new church?**

At this time, and in the next two months, we will not be doing any extra fundraising. However, that doesn't mean we can't fundraise after we vote to build the new facility.

### **Will the crooked cross on the front of the church be used on the new church?**

Our plan is to have a crooked cross on the new facility. However, it will most likely have to be a new one. If you see in the elevation drawings, there is one drawn in.