

IMPACT

Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

A letter from Vicar as he reflects on the new building.

Of all the words about the Christian life, or simply life for that matter, that I have witnessed to be true in my almost but not quite 29 years now, these may be the truest. They come from the writer Frederick Buechner: "Here is the world. Terrible and beautiful things will happen. Don't be afraid. While Buechner said Here is the world, he could have just as easily said Here is your life, and maybe that's what he was really getting at because while most of us find the world somewhat interesting, what most of us are most interested in is ourselves. Call it selfish, if you will; I call it human."

I've heard great many things said in a good number of churches as a DCE student, DCE intern, DCE, Seminary student, and now Vicar. Some I've agreed with, some I've thought, "well, I don't know about that", and some I've only pretended to listen to while maintaining good eye contact. But if I had to compress them all down into something that faithfully captures the essence of life in the church, then it would not be the exact words, but rather the spirit of Buechner's truth: Terrible and beautiful things will happen in life. Don't be afraid.

It is a truth I have heard spoken in the sanctuary of Our Savior in various ways, and also a truth we have experienced at Our Savior and will continue to experience. As I look forward, I think of one of my favorite days of the year – Ash Wednesday – (kind of kookie, I know!) the new building is a testament to this, Why? You might ask... well thinking of the sanctuary I have learned to become a pastor in will soon be dust is a reminder of it, a dust to which we, all of will one day return to. (This sounds a little depressing but bear with me!) While Buechner said Don't be afraid, he could have just as easily said Keep taking chances because that's what it means to stay alive and not let fear hamstring you. And I have witnessed this in you all as you all continue onward toward some beautiful things, some dreams and

visions and risks you're about to take, which may work out and may not. The beauty of it is that you keep taking chances for the sake of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Future generations will be blessed immensely, and from the dust of the old sanctuary will be the new lives of faith as they are fostered and cared for in the new sanctuary. Thank you all for living out before my family and me the sermon that terrible and beautiful things will happen, and none of us get a pass. But also, and I believe Buechner was intentional in his word order, that beautiful is the last word in that phrase, that beautiful gets the final say, that somehow, in some way, the darkness cannot overcome the light, that after Ash Wednesday comes Easter. So let us all continue onward and lean into the beauty of what is next. And don't worry, even when Abby Thomas and our new little one are gone, we will too.. And while I hope not, but know better than no doubt there will be terrible moments ahead, I am also betting on the beautiful ones for all of us. I have no idea what they will look like, but I believe they'll be there. I am deeply and profoundly honored to be a small part of this story of Our Savior Odell. And I know that it is short and my story won't be a part of it forever, but of course, all of our stories are wrapped up in God's story, and that one ends beautifully ever after. And for that, I am thankful, too. As I look on as somewhat of an outsider, somewhat as a fly on the wall, I pray and whisper to myself for all of you as you move on ahead. Don't be afraid.

Vicar Michael Winckler

Read about Vicar Winckler on the Home page of our website:
oursaviorodellnebraska.com



IMPACT

Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

On the Construction Side

South Lot Prep / Dirt Pad

- Workers who volunteered their time – Sid Penner, Lyle Probst, Brad Vitosh, Brock Vitosh, Blake Vitosh, Kolin Kotas, Holden Rees, Forrest Frietag, Travis Robeson, Lawrence Vitosh, Ben Scott.
- Approximately 225 man hours were donated.
- Lunch was provided by Jacque Probst and Ashley Rees
- Equipment- Sid Penner – Tractor & Box Scraper – no charge
- Lyle Probst – Tractor, Scraper & Skid Steer - no charge
- Brad Vitosh – Skid Steer – no charge
- Pat Jurgens – Excavator & Side Dump - no charge
- Brock & Blake – Skid Steer - no charge

- Tim Lottman – Side Dump & Packer - \$200 to \$400 Ground – Thanks to Bruce, Brock and Blake for allowing us to dig a hole on their property.
- Crushed Concrete – Beatrice Concrete – no charge Delivery by Clausen Excavating - \$260
- Diesel Cost – Brad \$150, Brock \$70, Forrest \$260, Lyle \$675

Overall, the cost to the church is less than \$2000 for a job that would have cost around \$25,000 if we were to hire it done.

We are blessed to have the resources in our congregation to do the job. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Facility Design/Construction

1. Exterior Surfacing selected:
SmartSiding and Rock Face (Split Face) Block.
2. Windows ordered: Anderson Series 100 (Fibrex) - Dark Bronze Color
3. Shingles selected
4. Soffit/Fascia selected
5. Trusses ordered
6. Framing & Siding: Scott Shelper hired
7. Electrical: Diller Electric hired
8. Rough-in Plumbing: Adam's Plumbing hired.
9. HVAC: Noakes hired
10. Footings/Basement walls: Martin Construction hired
11. Helping with Concrete Flatwork: Nick Parde & Nick Sedlacek
12. General Contractor: OSL Construction Committee

Stained Glass Windows

Palace Glass has been contracted to design, construct, and install six stained glass windows for our new facility. The glass artist is Harry Tompkin and we have given him a deposit to get started on the designs. Palace Glass website is palaceglass.com. They are located at: 5955 S. 56th St., Lincoln, NE.

The concept for the designs will be the six days of creation combined with the stages of Jesus' life. The overall design will lean toward traditional. There will be three windows on the west, and three on the east walls of the sanctuary.

The estimated cost for each window is \$3,500. We are hoping there are families who are interested in purchasing a whole window or combining with other families to purchase a window as memorials.

Please watch for updates as the windows are designed. Please let Jacque Probst (402)520-1132 know if you or a group of people would like to purchase one of these windows (can be a memorial). If your family has money in the Memorial Fund at church, please contact Kris Riggert (402)520-2890 if you would like some of that money to go toward a window.



**CONSTRUCTION PLANNED TO
BEGIN IN MID-MARCH!**

IMPACT

Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

On the Financial Side

In 2021, Our Savior Lutheran hosted a Commitment Celebration, in which 64 pledge cards were submitted to the financial team. The total amount committed from these cards was: \$544,491.61. Of this amount, a total of \$280,399.38 has been fulfilled, or just over 51% of the total. In addition, \$33,082.25 has been contributed by the Friends of the Congregation group (which includes friends of our church, former members of our congregation, friends, neighbors, and community members). With the Friends total contribution and our Congregation's total contribution, we have reached a total amount of \$313,481.63 raised as of February 2023. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and commitment. We are in this together!

Summary

\$280,339.38 - Congregation Contributions as of 2/23 (51%)
 \$33,082.25 - Friends of the Congregation Contributions as of 2/23

\$313,481.63 - Total Raised as of 2/23

(Total Pledges: \$544,491.61)

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." -- Luke 12:34

Groundbreaking

We were blessed to have a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, November 6th. Please see our Facebook Page or our website to see the video of the day.



Pledges of year two should be fulfilled by Palm Sunday of this year (April 2, 2023).

Year three pledges should be fulfilled by Palm Sunday 2024, which is the final year of the campaign.

IF you have any questions at all, please contact Paul Kostal; (402)239-6269, pkostal.bcc@gmail.com or Betty Warnsing; (402)806-1170, w_wwsing@hotmail.com

A special thanks goes out to our "Friends" of the Congregation, who have gone out of their way to support us on this journey. God is leading us, and you are part of where he has led us.

Friends of the Congregation
 Coordinator: Joyce Kostal

Stay up to date!

Ask Questions!

Church Website:

oursaviorodellnebraska.com

Pastor Stuckwisch: 402-230-0698
 or email: **oursaviorodell@diodecom.net**



Watch events, meetings, activities on our Facebook Page or YouTube channel



Our Savior Lutheran Church Odell

Our Savior Lutheran Church
PO Box A
Odell, NE 68415
HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE
BUILDING ON OUR PAST
TSO

Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

From Our Prayer Team

Most High God, It is with awe and gratitude that we lift up this building campaign to You knowing that in Your Hands it will become more than what our minds and hearts could plan for or even imagine. We believe in Your Promise to be with us and to lead us in paths of righteousness in order to bring glory and honor to Your Name. So with this one goal in mind we pray, as David did, for You to "make Your Way straight before us". And we thank you - before we even see walls or foundation laid - for allowing us to be part of bringing future souls into Your Kingdom. You don't need us. But by Your Grace, You see the need of Your church to continually look to You in times when we can't see a way and make a way for us so that our faith is made stronger. And so that all can see that THAT must have been God. All glory and power and honor to You.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Prayer Director:

Patty Heble

Prayer Team:

Tony Penner, Steve Kostal, Brittney Kotas, Cindy Stohs, & Mary Wieters

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged, the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.--Joshua 1:9

IMPACT