

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the past few months a new committee known as the Church Facilities Improvement Committee (CFIC), has been at work in our congregation gathering those members who have an interest in repairing and improving our building and ministry. The CFIC was approved by the Church Council as a committee of the Board of Trustees with connections to all the other existing Boards and Committees. The reasons for this new CFIC fall into four general categories:

- Get a handle on the major and minor repairs needed by our nearly 100 yr. old church building.
- Look at what our church building needs to improve in order to provide a greater worship, education, and fellowship experience.
- Find estimated costs for known improvements.
- Provide advice and counsel to our Church Council, Boards, and congregation so that we can plan and implement the repairs and improvements necessary.

The first task of the CFIC was to ascertain the scope of the repairs from the roof to the boiler room including drainage, wall damage, attic insulation, boiler capacity/efficiency, junk removal, painting, remodeling, repointing brick structure and parking lot resurfacing. Immediate attention was needed in the dining room by having a ceiling in a supply closet fall down shortly after Christmas. After nearly 100 years the nails holding the original heavy plaster ceiling let loose dropping the plaster on the suspended ceiling, sending both to the floor. That was in a supply closet, but we are aware that the entire dining room ceiling is of the same age and may have the same problem.

The CFIC has put together subcommittees to help examine what needs to be done and what it might cost. These subcommittees are:

- **Facilities/Accessibility/Life Safety**
- **Finance**
- **Education**
- **Worship**
- **Appearance**
- **Publicity/Celebration**

Each subcommittee has been asked to gather interested persons to look over their areas of concern and decide what needs to be done to improve our building, programs, worship experience, and ministry outreach so that Glenwood Lutheran can move into the next century with confidence.

To date improvements have been made using budgeted funds.

- The sanctuary roof has been properly vented to avoid the build-up of moisture in the attic.
- A catwalk has been installed in sanctuary attic to improve safety and to prepare for insulation to be installed
- Attic insulation will be installed by the time you read this letter.
- Closets and rooms have had old “junk” removed, recycled, donated, or will be available on e-bay for purchase. Further cleaning will be done in the coming weeks. This keeps our building less of a fire hazard
- A topographical/boundary survey has been completed so that we understand our drainage problems. Areas of our lower building flood frequently as our sump pumps cannot handle the amount of water entering our boiler room. We now know that our SW storm water manhole receptacle is problematic (undersized) causing water back-ups into the church. The city did not upgrade this sewer system in 2014 when First Avenue (south of the parking lot) was resurfaced.

Continued on back

Future repairs and improvements that will need funding

- Repointing our brick church building. Repointing is the process of removing deteriorated mortar from the joints of a brick wall and replacing it with new mortar. Properly done, repointing restores the visual and physical integrity of the brick. Improperly done, repointing not only detracts from the appearance of the building, but may also cause physical damage to the bricks themselves. This needs to be redone every 35-45 years. It was last done in the mid-1960's. The goal is to do it properly so that it lasts 50-100 years.
- Drainage repair along church building and within church structure
- Boiler/AC replacement for cost savings
- Parking lot repairs and resurfacing
- Window replacement and repair along west walls due to water damage caused by improper drainage.
- Improvements to education rooms for proper chairs, tables, and equipment
- Improvements to dining room chairs and seating in the chapel
- Church roof shingle replacement or metal roof
- Handicap/elevator accessibility within church building
- Improvements to meet fire/safety codes
- Enhancement to our worship experience
- Improved online connections to our members and others where ever they may be.

The point of all this is providing for our present and future witness to Christ. The presence of our church building on Minnesota Avenue is a Christian witness to all who pass by and who visit our city. We give thanks to God for those who have provided this building for our worship and education services. They have passed on to us a blessing. We are the stewards of providing for our current ministry and future generations of people the Holy Spirit will gather here.

In the coming days and weeks you will probably be hearing about these repairs and improvements from family and friends. You may also hear things that are neither accurate nor true. If you hear something that excites you or riles you, please be sure to call us for accurate information.

Informational meetings will be scheduled for:

- Wednesday, February 18 (following the Ash Wednesday Service).
- Sunday, February 22 (between services)
- Wednesday, March 18 (following the Lenten Service)
- Sunday, March 22 (between services)

I am enthused and excited by the energy and spirit of our congregation's leadership! One person said the perfect phrase to me – "Here is the church and here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people." It may sound child-like, but it always captures the essence of ministry. I would like to make it possible that 100 years from now, some child will say these words while sitting in the sanctuary with wise and loving parents surrounded by a wise and loving congregation.

In Christ,

Rev. Randy Chrissis