

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

RE: Glenwood Lutheran Church Hits Another Milestone

Date: June 16, 2016

In the spring of 1880, a group of settlers in the area decided to form a new church. In 1915 the same congregation made the decision to build a new, larger church building. That building located on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Second Street, a block east of the Pope County Courthouse, was built and dedicated in 1916. Last spring the congregation of Glenwood Lutheran Church, as a part of its 135 year anniversary of ministry to the area formed a committee to undertake a major renovation project of the church building. Fundraising began in earnest and some work began last summer, focusing primarily on the sanctuary of the large brick building. They insulated the attic and installed a catwalk above the sanctuary. The interior of the sanctuary was painted, and a new video system was installed in the sanctuary area, and in September worship was enhanced by the uses of the new large LED screens. The alley behind the church was vacated, utilities moved, and a new parking lot designed in preparation for the start of construction.

The committee prioritized additional needs and a proposal was brought to the congregation for approval at its Annual Meeting in May of this year. The GLC members approved a \$1.7 million Renovation Budget at that time. The Glenwood Lutheran Church Renovation Project bids have been let, while not all of the project will be completed without additional funding, the items which were approved are the essential part of the total project. The approved items to be completed include the correction of the foundation and drainage problems, improving the east emergency exit from the sanctuary, the enclosure of the open courtyard alleviating the drainage problem, improving the parking lot deficiencies, improving the accessibility to the south entrance, addition of a drive through canopy, installation of new Fellowship Hall windows, creating handicapped accessible lavatories on the ground level, and general maintenance items. The first phase will consist of the exterior work resolving the drainage and the deterioration of the exterior masonry. To date approximately \$1 million has been raised through pledges and donations. Glenwood Lutheran Church members and supporters continue to have the opportunity to pledge or donate to the project to facilitate the entire plan. Ground breaking and dedication will take place Sunday, June 19th, after the 8:30am worship service. It is anticipated the project will break ground in mid-July.

Terry Thompson Construction Management is overseeing the project. Studio E Architects of Glenwood were contracted to provide the designs and develop the bid specifications. The GLC Facilities Improvement Committee includes: Ron Cin and Virgil Christianson-co-chairmen; Eric Kolstoe, Bob Gandrud, Jerry Wright, Doug Bogie, Ken Moe, Arnie Domke, Dave Orłowski, Nettie Watkin, Jenna Myrom, Pastor Randy Chrissis, Senior Pastor, and Stephanie Howe, of Studio E Architects. GLC Board of Trustees include: Doug Bogie, Chairman, Jeff Gulsvig, Dane Ankeny, Mike Hested, Steve Claussen, Barb Ostrander, Curt Ogdahl, Lois Swanson, Randy Guderian. Officers of the Church Council include: Eric Kolstoe, President, Brad Vold, Vice-President, Marci Henke, Secretary. Pastors of the growing congregation of over 1,700 members are Randy Chrissis and Krista Lee. Glenwood Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), located in the Southwest Minnesota Synod.