

St. John Lutheran Church Boards, Committee & Group Questionnaire

2018.12.11

General Facility Questions

1. List 3 Key functions the Current Church Facility does not provide adequate accommodation for. (e.g. Sanctuary Seating, Kitchen Storage, Sunday School, Youth activities, childcare)

- a. **Board of Education**: Large Sunday School room(s) for games, running around, group activities; no availability for A/V items, TV, DVD, internet access. Larger sanctuary space up front; kitchen/bathroom space not easily accessible to Sunday School kids; lack of windows in rooms; no stage area.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: Basement does not accommodate enough for serving or seating room for funerals or other special events; the kitchen work space and serving space is lacking. At times we need to run two (2) serving lines causing one line to run through the kitchen making it difficult to serve food; some of the elderly are too afraid to use the elevator or don't know how to use it.
- c. **Adult Choir**: A room with piano, music and hymnals that would provide the current fellowship hall more room; a choir loft on the main floor.
- d. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: More Sanctuary seating; no space for the Sunday School kids to practice music and singing; access to the piano during Sunday School because the piano in the church balcony does not face the kids for instruction; the basement piano offers no opportunity to avoid bothering adults in Bible Class; a room with a piano and chairs that both the Adult Choir and the Sunday School kids could use interchangeable would be ideal.
- e. **Men's Bible Study Group**: This group would be better served with a better route of access to the fellowship/study/meeting area in a gathering place/fellowship hall with access from a main entrance on ground level making it easier for older people wanting to attend regularly.
- f. **Evangelism Board**: Area/Fellowship Hall for community invitation and involvement, i.e. Fish Boil, potential Soup Supper, Chili Feed, Children's Christmas Program, VBS Family involvement, etc.
- g. **LYF**: Doesn't provide adequate storage for decorations; no dedicated LYF/Youth space for activity, games or other recreational items.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: Fellowship lacks ground level access; not enough electrical plug-ins; round tables not the best for sewing or quilting; no ability to leave tables out; not enough space for sewing machines.
- i. **Pastor**: Sunday School, as right now SS meets in one room, then moves downstairs, or into the church, then to other rooms, which are small; Youth & Quilters, are sharing space in the room that is also use for meetings and classes.
- j. **Elders**: None

2. List 3 Key Functions the current facility does adequately accommodate or exceed the present need.

- a. **Board of Education**: Small group or class size rooms; good accessibility from back of the Altar; supply room (but as a result eliminates one classroom).
- b. **Ladies Aid**: Access for handicapped to the basement; sanctuary space is fine; meeting spaces is adequate.
- c. **Adult Choir**: From a choir perspective, the facility isn't really helpful to the choir.
- d. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: The setup of piano and chairs work well for Midweek music time since no one else needs that space at that time.
- e. **Men's Bible Study Group**: We are supplied place to be seated, access to A/V equipment and a coffee maker with room to grow.
- f. **Evangelism Board**: Worship Services; the preaching of God's Word; opportunities for adult Bible Studies and Bible Class on Sunday morning.
- g. **LYF**: We seem to meet the current need for class size rooms.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: We do have a separate room, but have to share it with other groups for other setup needs; we have good lighting; we seem to have good space to spread out in the larger area of the basement.
- i. **Pastor**: Offices; general meetings; small group meetings.
- j. **Elders**: Sanctuary functions very well. No steps into entrance into Narthex.

3. Identify 2 or more characteristics about the current Church that your group would like to make sure does not get impacted by a new facility. (e.g. Sense of Community, Fellowship, Inviting environment, etc.)

- a. **Board of Education**: Good fellowship opportunities; family feeling; a welcoming feel for people of all ages; safe friendly environment.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: N/A
- c. **Adult Choir**: N/A
- d. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: The classic, unpretentious look of the facility.
- e. **Men's Bible Study Group**: We don't wish to lose the inviting, friendly feel of Christian fellowship.
- f. **Evangelism Board**: Quiet country feel; the connection/fellowship with members both before and after worship services.
- g. **LYF**: N/A
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: N/A
- i. **Pastor**: I cannot think of anything that would be negatively impacted. The desire is that all ministries would be enhanced.
- j. **Elders**: Historic building, old classic design. That we don't lose any members over an Addition.

4. Identify 2 or more characteristics about the current Church that your group feels could be improved by a building project.

- a. **Board of Education**: Overall Fellowship space with NO stairs; visually appealing and welcoming; more space overall for group meetings and events.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: Would like to see a large area with a large counter where people waiting in a serving line could through on both sides or with better accessible ease; painting the sanctuary a lighter color – bring it up to date.
- c. **Adult Choir**: Giving the Choir a special place.
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: Enhanced/Improved access to the Fellowship Hall and Bible Study area.
- e. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: The Fellowship Hall in the basement is too dark and too small; we need Sunday School rooms with more natural light.
- f. **Evangelism Board**: An improvement would be larger, more accessible gathering space, before and after church is important for fellowship and community connection and purpose; an expanded ground-level space would offer a more inviting space for visitors with a roomy, community feel.
- g. **LYF**: Kitchen area and recreational area for youth to prepare and have fellowship activities and fun; additional storage space.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: Ground level Fellowship Hall; new elevator to access all three levels.
- i. **Pastor**: More room/space for all ministries; options for more Bible Study Groups.
- j. **Elders**: Fellowship Hall on first level. Restrooms. Stairs to the balcony.

5. Does your group feel a building project will positively affect the church, and the future of the church as a whole? Yes () No ()

- a. **Board of Education**: (YES); we have a desire for growth and attract and retain new members.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: (YES); and new or updated facility could attract new members; our message and our Christian fellowship will keep them.
- c. **Adult Choir**: (YES); we are witnessing and building for our children and for the growth of the church; most of all to share the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: (YES); we have hope and we pray that it will.
- e. Sunday School/Youth Music Choir: (YES); N/A
- f. **Evangelism Board**: (YES); we hope this will better equip our congregation to engage our community, our members and our visitors.
- g. **LYF**: (YES); we want room to expand and hopefully grow our youth and Sunday School attendance.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: (YES); we want it be more inviting with room to spread out and grow; to accommodate larger group events and funerals are important.
- i. **Pastor**: (YES); More room/space for all ministries.
- j. **Elders**: (Both YES and NO); Some feel it is false to believe a building will bring new members and will consume the wealth of our church so that existing programs will suffer. Some feel that it will show growth to our community.

6. Does your group feel there is adequate parking for the facility as it is now? Yes () No ()

- a. **Board of Education**: No
- b. **Ladies Aid**: Yes, but often crowded space for funerals
- c. **Adult Choir**: N/A
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: For our group, yes.
- e. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: N/A
- f. **Board of Evangelism**: Situational dependent; parking is fine for Midweek, meetings, etc. But, can be changed depending on how/where people chose to park. People have been known to park in the roadway due to lack of space.
- g. **LYF**: Sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: Adequate during the week; not adequate for heavily attended Sunday's or for Funerals.
- i. **Pastor**: No
- j. **Elders**: Yes

7. Would parking be least impacted if the addition was to the North, West, Or South of the Existing building? Explain why.

- a. **Board of Education**: It would be affected both positively and negatively regardless of location.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: West; the road is south and the cemetery is north. We will need to add more handicapped parking.
- c. **Adult Choir**: It may be time to find a different way of doing the parking. Put in a cement parking lot with lines.
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: The parking lot, in its current form, would be least impacted on the south or west. However, given improvements to the current parking lot, the parking situation may be different.
- e. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: N/A
- f. **Board of Evangelism**: Currently, the west or south, but it would depend on any resulting space gained by improving or expanding the current parking area with solid surface parking.
- g. **LYF**: N/A
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: N/A
- i. **Pastor**: South
- j. **Elders**: South or west is fine. The north side would affect parking the most.

8. Does the Existing Building entry lend itself to fostering a strong sense of community within the church? (e.g. would adjusting the way people access the sanctuary change the feel of the church?) Explain why.

- a. **Board of Education**: No, because people use different entrances already in order to come into the church. The current entry/narthex area is too small to accommodate too many people for visiting.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: N/A
- c. **Adult Choir**: We are creatures of habit and the older we get the harder it is to adjust. But once adjustments are made we accept it.
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: People enter and exit the church facility in two different directions currently, the rear door and the southeast entry door. The narthex is the intersecting point for people when leaving to either gather to talk, make their way to an exit or work their way toward the stairs for fellowship and Bible Class/Sunday School. On nice days, people will usually leave the narthex using the northeast door directly to the outside and have conversations out of doors.
- e. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: More room at the entry would promote visiting. As it is, one feels they are in everyone's way. So they immediately go outside or downstairs.
- f. **Board of Evangelism**: People enter from both front and rear entrances. A sense of community would be better served if was expanded conversation space adjoining the narthex area; like a ground level Fellowship Hall.
- g. **LYF**: Either way, it's important to have space to gather, be sociable and have fellowship before and after church.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: No, it does not. It is too small or open to conversations.
- i. **Pastor**: Not necessarily; People enter by two doors now and what entry space we have is limited.
- j. **Elders**: The entry was added just for that fact and has worked out nicely. Second question is Yes.

9. **What would your group see as the most exciting opportunity for growth and member engagement in a church building project? Explain**

- a. **Board of Education**: A newly dedicated area for youth and fellowship before and after church services.
- b. **Ladies Aid**: A new Fellowship Hall that allows good accessibility.
- c. **Adult Choir**: We feel our primary focus should be on young families and how our church should be inviting and serve their needs. We also see this as an opportunity to include updates to the sanctuary into the conversation and plan also.
- d. **Men's Bible Study Group**: Better, enhanced fellowship opportunities.
- e. **Sunday School/Youth Music Choir**: N/A
- f. **Board of Evangelism**: Growth in youth attendance and activity, growth in Sunday School and Bible Class participation and improvements in our Fellowship opportunities for our church and our community. Youth engagement is the future of our local church, the LCMS and the Church universal as a whole.
- g. **LYF**: We stand a better chance of getting other kids interested in coming to LYF and Sunday School. It might be more inviting.
- h. **Quilting/LWML**: We look to be more inviting.
- i. **Pastor**: Greater participation in community gatherings.
- j. **Elders**: If we all agreed on the same project it would be a sense of community.

Thank you for your comments, they will help significantly.