



## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH – SOUTH ST PAUL NARTHEX AND ENTRY RENOVATION PROJECT

### DECISION OF PARISH COUNCIL 10/18/2011

Over the years, many members have complained about our visitors' first experience in the church building, from the parking lot entrance across the north lobby area to the Narthex and nursery. It was generally regarded as inefficient, unattractive and unwelcoming to possible new members...a striking contrast to the Sanctuary. Earlier this year a team of volunteers representing all of Concordia's ministries began to explore options for redesigning or remodeling this area.

Through surveys, focus groups and interviews, they gathered members' feedback on the problems and opportunities that this space presented to the congregation. The team concluded that the entire area needed to be redone if the church was to be attractive to visitors and members alike, and if it hoped to meet the evolving program offerings of Concordia. The team concluded its work in September with a competitive process that resulted in the selection of Krech, O'Brien, Mueller & Associates of Inver Grove Heights to take us through a predesign process, the next step in a remodeling effort.

The Parish Council acted at its October meeting to take that next strategic step into the congregation's future. They authorized the creation of a special fund to pay for the predesign process. This is the critical planning step that should precede any decision to substantially remodel or redesign. Krech, O'Brien will document our needs and priorities and help us describe the relationship between our program areas and the space. The total cost of this predesign process is projected to be in the range of \$12,000 to \$16,000. The value of this investment will be realized multiple times in the future as decisions are made.

As the money is raised and planning proceeds, the Council asks that all members of the congregation keep this vital effort in their prayers, that the decisions that are reached may be thoughtful and creative. This is a critically important step for the future of the congregation, affecting our ability to attract and retain members as well as enhance the success of our programs.

It is very important to understand that at this point, no decision has been made to go ahead with construction or remodeling. The predesign process and plan simply provides the council and congregation, with the information it will need to make those decisions. The congregation will decide if it will go ahead, then set the sequencing of component projects. After considering the benefits and the costs of each option, the church will make final decisions about the order and scale of remodeling. Then, finally, the architects can create the actual design documents and construction specifications needed for the remodeling project to proceed.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all of the people who worked on this project and shared their ideas and energy.