



Building
On a
Legacy
Devoted...
to God and his Word
Supporting
Trusting
Encouraging
Praying
Sharing

St John Lutheran Church & School

261 Clay Street | Wrightstown, WI 54180 | 920-532-4865 | stjohnwrightstown.com

THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

More than one article in this news release deals with financial matters, so this is a good time to consider generosity.

Someone many readers of the newsletter know told of the time years ago when he and a friend stopped into Applebee's late one night. The bartender shared that the biggest tip she had ever heard of – but not received – was \$300. He whispered to his friend, "Let's give her \$300...each!" And they did! And then rushed to their car. But before they could leave the parking lot the bartender flung open the doors and stood there in shock, trembling, wide-eyed, hands extended in disbelief. The two laughed uncontrollably all the way home just at the joy of it.

Good story. True story! And in the story is a valuable spiritual lesson: the result of extreme generosity is joy – in this case, how happy it made the two friends who tipped so generously. Yes, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Remember that long ago Jesus was there. He didn't give \$600, but his very life to make us eternally happy. "In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2). That cross hurt a lot, but Jesus experienced great joy in giving us life with God forever.

As you reflect on B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S financial matters, reflect also on your generous Savior. What a Giver! (Reflections paraphrased from Time of Grace)

TIMELINE OF EVENVTS

Enjoy a few key construction events:

- Dirt at the site was first moved on October 12, with stakes marking the building location a few weeks later.
- November saw the pouring of footings, foundation walls, and 25,000 square feet of concrete floor! Drone shots make clear now that the building is in the shape of a cross. Let's remember that every time we enter the building!

The pre-engineered steel pieces that arrived on site about six months after being ordered, are now all in place, Erector Set style. At this writing the gym roof panels are being installed. This writer had the privilege of standing in the "gym" a few days ago. The awesome excitement of just standing there far exceeds the experience of seeing it from Plum Road or in the many fine drone shots posted on St. John's website.



Soon after the gym framework was up another crew began assembling both the exterior and interior walls, consisting of large panels assembled elsewhere in a shop. By the time you read this all walls will be up and trusses will have been lifted atop them. Window installation will begin shortly thereafter.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY REMAINS OPEN

In your household can you find...

- ... a piggy bank full of coins?
- ... cash in a cookie jar?
- ... evidence of savings in a local bank?
- ... a rainy day fund?

... any money getting minimal interest?

You get the point! Did you know that you can invest that money at a competitive rate of interest (up to as much as 3.5%) with a low investment minimum (\$25), and here's the kicker – to the advantage of our B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S initiative? To date, \$683,800 has been invested in this opportunity, and every dollar helps shorten the term of our 30-year loan. What's not to like? Details are available at church or from a member of the Finance Committee.

BASKETBALL ANYBODY?

Our school's PTO leadership has raised nearly \$30,000 for playground equipment. On Black Friday (50% off, no less) they latched on to a pair of outdoor backboards/hoops which now await installation and warmer weather. A pair of virtually new glass backboards has been donated for the gym by a Minnesota friend of our project.

(\$855,000.00)

MINI-APPEAL AUTHORIZED

Almost three years ago we began a capital fund drive with the goal of receiving three-year commitments in support of the building project. Although the effort was interrupted by COVID, that drive, together with proceeds from the sale of our church and school, has provided the bulk of the funds currently being used to fund construction.

However, some families could not participate at that time, additional families have joined St. John since

then, and some school families have inquired how they might support the project financially. Therefore a similar capital-fund drive, although limited to seven months (beginning now and running through June, 2023), is currently under way. Although the appeal is directed first and foremost to the three groups mentioned, all St. John families were welcome to attend and learn from the two “cottage meetings” at which program details were shared. The Finance Committee was saddened when, after spending at least 20 hours planning and preparing for the mini-appeal, less than 2% of the intended audience attended! We are a *family* of God's people; we are all *children of God*; Jesus calls us his *brothers*. That suggests strongly that we are in this B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S initiative together, that we all pray for ways to participate. Your Finance Committee is convinced that every family can participate, even financially, but we were unable to share that encouraging message with households who were not there. The informational packet will soon be mailed to the intended audience. Please give it your prayerful consideration – and the Finance Committee stands ready to answer questions you may have.

BIWEEKLY OAC MEETINGS

These important “Owner/Architect/Contractor” meetings, begun on Tuesday, December 6 and continuing every two weeks throughout the construc-

tion process, are intended to keep the three primary parties informed and on the same page. These meetings occur in the on-site office.

HAPPY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Recently a small group of volunteers, both adults and children, visited the worksite to fold and stack over two hundred heat blankets which had been used to keep the newly-poured concrete at a proper temperature. This saved us about \$2500! Down the road there will be ample opportunities for members to perform routine tasks to reduce costs. Every Thursday, Bernie Vickman will communicate with the project foreman to determine whether weekend volunteers might be needed. Let Bernie know if you'd like to be contacted when a need arises. Join the fun!

TRIVIA QUESTION

Although substantial invoices had previously been paid to the architect (\$293,000) and to Catalyst for the gym steel (\$205,000), the first monthly construction invoice is due about the time you read this. Take a guess at the amount. After recording your guess, find the answer buried in small print at the bottom of page one. Not trivial!



Release #27, December 2022

St John Lutheran Church & School

261 Clay Street | Wrightstown, WI 54180 | 920-532-4865 | stjohnwrightstown.com