

## The Story of Our Building Project - By Fr. John Kleinwachter

By the grace of God, we have been able to move forward to accomplish the dreams and hopes of upgrades to our church building that have been in the hearts and minds of our community of faith for almost a generation. The following is the careful, responsible, process we have moved through in the past five years.

2014 With the help of Al Jacobson from Frazee we went through an assessment of our needs.

2015 The following summer we were blessed to meet Hal Johnson from Bloomington whom we hired to help us put together a proposal to meet our main needs that was presented to parish that fall and accepted by the majority of the parish.

Later that year, we conducted a three-year capital campaign that has netted us over \$852,000, or slightly more than half of the estimated base cost of the building project.

2016 During the time of the capital campaign we continued working with our architect, Mike Johnston, originally from Warroad but now located in Bemidji, on a building plan.

2018 The plan was accepted by the diocesan building and planning commission in January.

Last summer, in an attempt to push up the timing of the project and save costs, we put the project out for bids. Because of the lateness of the bidding in the construction season, this did not work out for us, but it led us to working on some updates to the building project with a local contractor, Rod Wulff Construction of Roseau, was able to work with sub-contractors to get us a lowered bid that is within our budget and acceptable to us.

2019 With the approval of our pastoral and finance councils, our trustees requested a proxy of approval from Bishop Hoeppner and the Diocesan Finance Council for the building project and financing plan. The diocese proxy was signed and sent to us in April.

As we sign the contract and enter into the construction phase of our building project, we turn to you for a renewal of your commitment to our vision that will come to fruition with your help.

Having raised half of the cost of the project in 3 years in order to initiate this project, we are certainly able to cover the remaining costs. To do this most efficiently in regard to interest on our loan, we will need the continued sacrificial giving of all our parishioners through pledges and contributions in order to meet our monthly loan payment obligations.

We will soon enjoy the upgrades of a gathering space, elevator for the physically handicapped, accessible bathrooms, needed classrooms for our education programs, energy efficiency, and much more. However, these improvements to our church building need to be seen also as a gift that we are giving to others as we provide a needed space for those who will use our building for weddings and funerals (we will now have a room to the side of the gathering space that can be used by the family of the deceased).

It will be a building easily accessible for all events to those experiencing decreased mobility. It will offer us an office space for the religious education program and possibly a deacon for our parish in the future. As those who sacrificed to give us this building that we have been using for over 50 years, we are now asked to invest in the future of our faith community and make a sacrifice for the spiritual good of others as well as ourselves.

This will be a wonderful gift to fellow parishioners now and into the far future and will help to retire the needed loan as quickly as possible. God bless you for your work and sacrifices to bring us to this point and your work and sacrifices that will bring this much-needed project to its completion.

Grateful to God and to you, and proud to be your pastor, I am - Fr. John Kleinwachter