

September 2011

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School,

We are facing a critical point in the life of St. Paul's. Our facilities are not keeping pace with what a church has to be in this millennium. We love our beautiful sanctuary, a holy place where light and sound bring the glory of God into our lives. Our SPARK vision seeks to surround our unique sanctuary with warm and hospitable gathering spaces, adequate restrooms, facilities for growing food ministry, safe places for youth, expanded school and parish learning, and places for recreation.

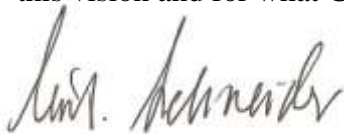
Former generations gave us incredible gifts with our existing facilities.

St. Paul's was organized in 1872, but its first fifteen years were truly no picnic. A small, faithful nucleus faced ongoing struggles with pastors serving short terms, fluctuating school numbers, no permanent place of worship—all within conflicts and constant financial gloom. Then in 1886, the Holy Spirit prodded the little flock to risk beyond its means to buy an abandoned church building. From that point on St. Paul's truly began to grow and thrive.

Similar challenges to build for the future happened in 1907, 1938, 1963, and 1971. The people who made those decisions were not much different than you and me. They prayed, worshiped, discerned, acted for the future, and built. True to their vision, God used the spaces to transform lives to become beacons to the world.

The next generation is waiting for us to take our turn.

The leadership of St. Paul's—your council, boards, work groups, staff—has spent three years listening to your input on facilities. Now that a plan has taken shape around that input, it is time to move ahead on the next, exciting chapter of our ministry. I invite you to read this brochure. Sense the vision that is unfolding in trust of Jesus' call to discipleship in changing times. Pray for this vision and for what God is calling you to do to make it happen.



Curt Schneider
Head of Staff Pastor