

A HISTORY OF THE FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SAN DIMAS, CALIFORNIA SANCTUARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

PRESENTED BY THE
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE
FOR PROJECT DEDICATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2008

The Building Committee has been blessed to play a part in the planning of the construction of Faith Lutheran's new sanctuary and ancillary facilities. This dedication provides the opportunity for all of us to rejoice in the completion of our new sanctuary that God has enabled us to accomplish, to His glory and a tool to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Following is a brief history of some milestones in this construction project:

- A Planning Committee was established in March of 2000 with the goal of determining the facility needs of Faith Lutheran in relation to its identified mission and ministries. At various times Planning Committee included Millie Stanford, Hal Fredericksen, Laura Nash, Kevin Smola, Brian Boyer, Mary Chen, and Pastor David Berkedal. Over a 3-year period the Committee evaluated Faith's needs in relation to its existing facilities, met several times with Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Mission Investment Fund building consultant Carol Schneider, completed a detailed Church and Community Study resulting in completion of a Building Program Projection, met with several potential professional church construction fundraisers, and ultimately made a recommendation to the Faith Lutheran congregation on a consensus need for a sanctuary expansion and refurbishment, additional offices, and a moderate increase to off-street parking. Additional classroom space was identified as a long-range goal, but eventually omitted from the project itself.
- The Building Committee was established in early 2003 as the successor to the Planning Committee. The Committee has at times included Millie Stanford, Hal Fredericksen, Tom Biermann, Laura Nash, Kevin Smola and Pastor David Berkedal. A gentleman by the name of Rudy, a colleague of a committee member, provided some of the earliest design concepts for what a suitable, yet realistic, project might be for Faith Lutheran. Eventually Bob Moore, also a member of the congregation, would join the committee first as an "informal" and then as a regular member of the committee and prove invaluable for his professional construction experience and project management skills. Other members of the congregation participated in the process in a variety of ways, and we are thankful for all of their contributions. Our apologies if any names are inadvertently omitted here. The Building Committee's initial focus was to refine what project was needed, beginning project concepts, and to begin the process of retaining an architect.

- In Spring 2003 the Building Committee identified a project to “significantly expand and reconstruct the existing sanctuary, expanding it from its 120 seats to 220-240 seats”. A primary objective was identified to “achieve a design, with the Lord’s guidance, that would serve as the best possible tool to share our ministries with the surrounding community, and provide a suitably sized, attractive facility for the growth of our church’s ministries.”
- In June 2003 began the search for an architect. RFP’s were sent to a variety of pre-qualified architectural firms. Eventually 6 architectural firms were interviewed for consideration. OJMR Architects were eventually retained. While fresh with ideas, OJMR and Faith Lutheran experienced differences over timing and design and eventually parted ways. Thus began a series of architect mishaps that resulted in the project being stalled a number of times. Perhaps we were not yet ready for our project and God was giving us the time we needed.
- In November 2004 the congregation voted to move forward with a concept that would eventually be the beginning “blueprint” for today’s project. An important aspect of that vote was to support the concept of recurring capital campaigns for the sanctuary building, in order to allow the greatest and most attractive funding for the project. A notable element of this and subsequent design revisions was the inclusion of a vertical tower element with a cross that would make our church more clearly “a church” to the surrounding community. In keeping with design requirements of the local community and city, it was also determined the construction would be of an “early California” theme. The eventual Craftsman design of the project would be an outgrowth of this theme.
- In January 2005 an unusually strong winter storm that included an extremely rare tornado came through San Dimas. One result of the tornado was that Faith Lutheran’s existing sanctuary lost a good-sized portion of its roof in the night, and was not discovered until the next morning. The result was severe water damage inside the church that made the sanctuary unusable. The damage was too severe to consider a simple repair. Suddenly we had an urgency that made our project a priority rather than a concept. While Faith Lutheran was able to utilize its hall for services, this was only a temporary solution and the need to proceed directly with our construction project became a goal of the highest order.
- In 2005 the Committee, with approval from the Church Council, elected to move forward with Vision Builders to pursue a “Design Build” concept for the project. A considerable amount of design work remained to be accomplished, as well as most of the entitlement approvals from the City of San Dimas. 2005 and 2006 would see numerous design revisions and negotiations with the City. Again a series of architect mishaps were encountered, but eventually a suitable design with a “Craftsman” architectural theme began to materialize.
- In early 2006 the Congregation voted to proceed with the \$1.4 million sanctuary reconstruction and expansion project that would include ancillary facilities including offices, restroom, conference room, sacristy, a narthex, P3 Room, expanded parking, revised landscaping, and new site lighting throughout. A contract was entered into with

Vision builders for construction of the project. The project benefited greatly from input by Jim Harmon, a local “Craftsman” consultant, and decisions were made to include custom liturgical furnishings from a local liturgical furnishings company.

- On August 27, 2006, Faith Lutheran held its “Groundbreaking” for its new sanctuary project. A thankful and optimistic congregation rejoiced over finally beginning and looked forward to being in the new building in no time! The inevitable construction delays ensued...
- On Christmas Eve, 2007 Faith Lutheran was, for the first time, able to utilize its new sanctuary. Praise the Lord!
- The Building Committee continues today in addressing minor issues, some more minor than others! Parking lot lighting and drainage remain ongoing challenges, along with some minor furnishing concerns. But for the most part, the project is finished. The Committee continues to meet at least once a month, as it has over the last eight years, to resolve all loose ends. We are thankful for the Lord’s guidance and for the Congregation’s trust and encouragement, as we have all pursued this worthwhile project.
- At this Dedication, today on June 22, 2008, we thank God for providing the gifts we required for this accomplishment and pray that it will be the tool that we have all prayed for in bringing others to Christ in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal G. Fredericksen

Building Committee Chair