



## **Sacred Space: That all may find a place at His table**

### ***Phase II - Vision***

**Our church mission is to bring the love of Christ to a searching world.**

Our Lord has asked us to love one another and share His good news with others so that they may experience His blessings. We recommitted ourselves to this mission ten years ago when we identified the need to enhance Redeemer – to expand and renovate His Sacred Space in such a way that more people could experience His love and gift of salvation.

The success of this Phase 1 Sacred Space initiative ten years ago resulted in more room for children, youth and adults -- from the town square to our Westmaple pre-school, to the gymnasium and new classrooms. More important than physical space, it created more opportunity to share God's gifts.

But many people remain unsure of their place in this world. Today, more than ever, families in our community are searching to know Christ. Today, more than ever, we have a responsibility to make room at His table.

**It is now time to address the original focus of the master plan – the renewal and renovation of our sanctuary.**

Phase 2 is our way to ensure that our church building and grounds, and the sanctuary in particular, continue to serve our mission. Our sanctuary is in urgent need of renovation so that we can continue to meet the needs of our congregation and to make room for other families, now and for the next generation. And the renovation would also provide a new way to reach young families by creating safe, flexible, modernized spaces for children and youth of all ages.

The urgency to act is high. First, the spiritual needs of our community can be met by the strengths of our church. And second, not addressing some of our practical building needs now will limit our ministries and delay and complicate the inevitable when it comes to care of our facility.

**Phase 2 encompasses 3 major areas**

**The Sanctuary** –We have reimagined the same colonial aesthetic we have come to know and love, in a larger more flexible space that provides both members and visitors a

more welcoming, accessible, engaging worship experience, with multiple seating arrangements that accommodate a wide variety of worship needs and attendance patterns. This will utilize the latest sound and lighting technology, while all neatly integrated with a larger town square. Key to this enhancement is that it will meet all current access, fire and safety building codes, including:

- Larger lobby (narthex) with visibility through to the sanctuary
- Natural light in the sanctuary via larger, yet traditional Redeemer windows
- Larger balcony with access via two open stairways
- Longer pews and wider pew spacing
- Handicap parking identified by the new sanctuary doors
- Wider side aisles to accommodate (or store) walkers and wheel chairs passing in both directions
- Dedicated sanctuary seating, front and back, for wheel chairs
- Access to communion distribution without having to navigate any stairs
- An inclined floor that improves the sightline of each pew
- New and improved sound system integrated with assistive listening devices
- New ADA compliant bathrooms (men's and women's) on the lower level

**Music** –Music is a critical component of our Lutheran worship and Redeemer is blessed by its many music groups. However, there is currently only a single practice room shared by all music programs, as well as for all robing of acolytes and elders. In addition, our organ has become unreliable. Given the age and condition of the organ, it is not practical to make the substantial upgrades and repairs that would be necessary. It's critical to expand the area available for our music programs and to replace the organ. Phase 2 specifically includes:

- A new organ with relocation of the existing organ pipes
- Additional dedicated practice space for vocal choirs and the bell choir
- Larger sanctuary chancel seating for vocal and bell choirs, and instrumentalists (eliminating folding chairs that block the communion access)
- An instrumental storage room
- Direct access between the music wing and the Town Square

The entire worship service is a two-way communication between and among the pastors and congregation, utilizing the organ, instrumentals and our collective voices (both choir and parishioner). We need to nurture the music ministries that contribute so much to our worship experience.

**Children and Youth**– With so many young families joining Redeemer there is a need to update our facilities for children and youth. We no longer educate and minister to children on just Sunday mornings. Our programs have expanded by age, day of week and time of year. We now run ministry programs six days per week – 12 months per year – from age six months to 18 years. But our cinderblock classrooms, built in the 1950's, have not kept pace with parent's current expectations. Hence our plan includes:

- Six new classrooms that meet current licensing requirements
- A new Christian Education Resource Center
- A new multi-purpose fellowship space for children, youth and adults
- Four new bathrooms

Some of our children's programs have waiting lists. Now is the time to capitalize on the opportunity to reach young families in the area searching for a church home.

## **Phase 2 will enhance our outreach**

The unifying focus for all these enhancements is to further our outreach efforts by improving on our already welcoming, engaging visitor experience as well as provide the following:

- Larger Town Square with more seating for families and seniors
- Opening multiple ways to get from Town Square to Sanctuary
- More direct access to and from the nursery and sanctuary
- More visible church office located directly off the town square
- New ADA compliant ramp access to the chapel, east end of the office corridor and sanctuary

## **This is a once in our lifetime opportunity to make a transformational impact on our ministries for generations to come.**

This is not about bricks and mortar. This is about ministry. We have a short time on this earth. Beyond loving our family, our faith calls upon us to pass on the message of reconciliation and salvation. Investing in the strength of our church and its ministry will continue to allow us to bring that message to our community.

We may not have another opportunity to make such a significant impact on our ministries. Our present needs provide us the unique opportunity to envision the complete renovation of our worship experience and many of our family ministry areas.

## **The estimated cost is \$7.1M.**

A majority of the capital is required to make the necessary renovations to the sanctuary. At the same time, however, we will be able to create a larger and more flexible lower level to enhance all of our children, Sunday school, youth and adult ministries. A reconfigured office wing will also allow for more efficient use of existing space and additional offices for our counseling ministry.

Our religion, our faith, is not just a personal matter. We have been called to bring others to Christ. Our friends and family members can receive the gift of forgiveness that we have to offer through Christ. We have the blueprint to make it a reality for so many that need His salvation.

This is something bigger than us. We work for the future. We pray for God's blessings – wisdom, patience, and discernment -- as together we travel this spiritual journey to expand His kingdom.