



# Questions & Answers

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## What, in a nutshell, are we proposing to do?

Here it is in just seven words: *a renovation and expansion of Heritage Hall.*

## Why undertake this project now?

Three reasons. *First*, there is a pressing need to update Heritage Hall. The building is almost 70 years old. No one will dispute that it was solidly built, but the years have taken their toll. The deferred maintenance list keeps getting longer.

*Second*, while Heritage Hall was no doubt an impressive building in the 1950s, it's showing its age now. Just take a look at the flooring and lighting in the Nerger Room. Or consider that the restrooms have no ventilation or air-conditioning and are not handicap accessible. There has been very little updating in seven decades. Who among us can say that about our own houses?

*Third*, the expectation of people today is for generous gathering spaces where church members can linger to talk to one another. If you haven't, visit a few of our sister congregations in town, like Emmanuel (on Jefferson Blvd.) or Zion (on Hanna St.) to see the amazing gathering spaces they have added to their churches in the past 10 to 15 years.

## Do we have to enclose the courtyard?

We understand that our beautiful courtyard holds a special place in the hearts of many. But the reality is that it's a very underutilized space. In addition, it isn't handicap accessible, thus excluding some from ever using it. Turning it into a large and inviting multipurpose room would allow for a variety of gatherings all year long, both on Sundays and during the week.

## How will some of the changes affect me?

Here are a few examples:

- Fully modern bathrooms will be placed in a much more central location, making them easier to find by both members and visitors.
- The church secretary's office will be located near the elevator, thus providing an immediate greeting area for all who enter.
- The large gathering space, created by some of the current offices and courtyard will provide an attractive multipurpose space easily reached from every direction.
- The Nerger Room will be updated, with attractive flooring and bright, cheerful lighting.

## What are other features of the plan?

These are almost too numerous to list, but here are a few highlights:

- Deteriorating windows all around the building will be replaced. Tuck-pointing of the brick work will bring the exterior up to snuff.
- The heating and cooling systems of both the church and school will be upgraded.
- The kitchen will be expanded slightly, reconfigured, and supplied with new cabinetry.
- The electrical system, especially in the Nerger Room, will be brought up to code so that we don't blow fuses at every potluck!!
- The upstairs bathrooms will be refreshed.
- A dedicated workroom for all printing and business needs will be located near the church secretary's office.
- A fireproof room will protect all church records.

## When was our last major campaign?

The school renovation project and its corresponding campaign, "Teaching the Faith," began some 20 years ago. That project resulted in a refreshed school building that continues to serve us well.

## What is the estimated cost of this project?

As we have reported at several voters meetings over the past two years, this will not be an inexpensive undertaking. Even if we don't expand Heritage Hall by enclosing the courtyard, the extensive renovations needed to the building will likely cost over three million dollars. With the full expansion, as well as the upgraded heating and cooling system for the church *and* school, we're looking at close to six million dollars in total costs.

## When will work begin?

If our schedule holds, work will begin mid spring in the coming year (2024). A full timetable, including when work will be completed, is yet to be finalized.

## What if we can't raise sufficient funds?

That is an important question. Depending on the level of commitment we receive this fall through our "Gathering in Christ" campaign, we may have to explore the possibility of delaying the start of the project until 2025. If we do, however, we need to understand that inflation will only raise the final cost even more.

## What can I do right now?

At this moment, the most important thing is to stay informed. Read the literature, attend meetings, ask questions. And pray. Pray that God will bless this effort and, in the process, draw our congregation closer together.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
**Fort Wayne, Indiana**



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