



You have probably heard the phrase “We stand on the shoulders of giants” and that has certainly been true here at St. Paul’s. In 1928 our forebearers planted St. Paul’s to be the hands and feet of the risen Christ. By 1954 we had grown enough as a community of faith to expand our facilities adding a new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and kitchen. In 1978 we added a Sunday school wing and then in 1998 we added offices and an elevator. Through the grace of God and the generosity of our community we have been able to continue the work our forebearers started.

St. Paul’s was gifted a memorial endowment to care for the church from Glen and Karen Mueller and Gordon and Margaret Schweikert. We invested their gifts through the Wisconsin Conference U.C.C. Fund so that their gifts would continue to nourish the church for years to come. As a part of accepting these gifts, we did so with the understanding that we would be undertaking a major project that would benefit the church in their memory.

As we have been thinking about projects that can benefit our church and our community, we settled on the kitchen. Outside of the sanctuary, the kitchen is the heart of our community. We come together around funeral luncheons, Lenten breakfasts, Easter breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, chili lunches, carnivals, trunk or treats, coffee hours, and once upon a time Smorgasbords. We both gather as a community to cook and break bread together, as well as use the kitchen to reach out to our community.

A kitchen committee was assembled including Richard Reineking, Jim Schwarten, Linda Horn, Jean Dickmann, Agnes Kuntsmann, Deb Severns, and Pastor Jeremy. As we talked about ideas and talked to contractors, we learned that the kitchen, built around 1954, would need more than just cosmetic fixes—in fact, much of the space cannot be “fixed.” Our plumbing, electrical, and ventilation are severely outside of building codes. We are grandfathered in for codes, so long as we do not do any kind of changes. The reality is that our kitchen is no longer safe or fully functional. After engaging Quasius Construction and talking through many ideas, we have agreed the most cost effective and practical plan is to start from scratch and completely remodel the space.

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We have a blueprint and quotes for all the different components of the space. Attached is the blueprint for your review. The cost for the entire project would be approximately \$175,000 and take an estimated three months to complete. As mentioned before, we have memorial money earmarked for the project, as well as funding from the parsonage, leaving us with a need of approximately \$25,000. We propose to raise this money internally over the next three years. We are asking for each member to help with raising the additional money for this project so St. Paul's can continue God's work in the church and our community.

The Consistory has unanimously motioned that we move forward with this project. With the scope and cost of this project, we need to have a congregational vote with a majority in agreement to move forward. You may vote online or with the paper ballot included. Please look for a separate email labeled *St. Paul's Kitchen Project* and cast your vote no later than February 24th.

We invite you to reach out to the kitchen committee with any questions or concerns.

Yours in faith,

Kitchen Remodel Committee

Richard Reineking, Chair
Linda Horn
Jean Dickmann
Agnes Kuntsmann
Deb Severns
Jim Schwarten
Pastor Jeremy

Consistory

Jim Schwarten, President
April Koranda, Vice-President
Melody Kolb, Secretary
Greg Peterson, Treasurer
Richard Reineking, Trustee
Steve Flook
Rhoda Cheney
Vicki Radovan
Deb Severns
Pastor Jeremy