

**Let us go into the house of the Lord**

We built a wonderful facility at Salem forty years ago. A tall and stately sanctuary with clean lines, brick and slate, an open space with a tall ceiling and a wonderful organ. Office space to match the sanctuary, with a much-used Fireside Room for gatherings, along with space for a pastor's study and business offices. Modern, comfortable and efficient classrooms for our school. A conversion from our former sanctuary into a large and airy Fellowship Hall/Gymnasium. Salem pioneers dedicated this space to the Lord and crafted it for generations of use.

But lately we have discovered some seams opening, a time for obvious renewal. We worked during the past several years to develop a newly refurbished Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room and a convenient place for our Nursery; classroom windows have been retrofitted for thermal and sound insulation; we have redesigned some accessible restrooms and added ramps; we are adding much-needed air conditioning to the Fellowship Hall, and we have been patching upgrades to fit the twenty-first century and our new technology needs.

But still on-going maintenance needs are facing us with our well-used forty and sixty year old facilities. Some of these maintenance concerns... and concerns for accessibility... and other concerns have arisen over the past several years, and were raised again at our recent annual meeting. The Church Council decided to take wide view, instead of just patching the dike every time a new dribble is apparent (and yes, we will continue to patch the holes as they open), they determined to see if an overall master plan for the entire campus, for the sanctuary, for the offices would be a worthwhile investment of resources, so we don't have to "dig up the newly paved street" as cities are often forced to do.

We would like input from people who see some of the seams that are opening in our use: do you sometimes say "if only" or "why don't they" or "I sure wish they would"? And need input from people with a grand vision of how we can update and improve our facilities to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next fifty years. Can we improve lighting, so we can read better? Sound, so we can hear better? Sight, so we can see better? Should we design a more dramatic space? A more subdued one? Seating for more flexible use?

If you are willing be involved in, excited about even, working to champion improvements for the worship and service space at Salem, please let Les Simons or John McGraham know.

FISH CATCHER (USPS 480-330) is published monthly by Salem Lutheran Church, 1211 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202. Periodical Postage paid at Glendale, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Salem Lutheran Church, 1211 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202.