

Epiphany Lutheran Church

# RENEW NEWS

Third Quarter 2024



## **A PASSION IN GOD'S PEOPLE Sanctuary Renovation**

Can you believe it? We've completed the renovation in the sanctuary after many years of dreaming, designing, scoping, estimating, planning, budgeting, re-scoping, designing again and constructing!

Our journey began in 2017, when the newly-created project charter defined the project's purpose to turn the sanctuary building into a vibrant, beautiful space in which people encounter the living God for the Proclamation of the Word, delivery of the Sacraments and production of quality music. The project would challenge the church to develop and utilize the new tools to help equip its members to make disciples. In

2018, a congregational questionnaire determined the priorities; the project was later named "Here We Stand – In the Name of Jesus" (HWS). The congregation went through multiple votes, which included approving: design proceedings with Studio Red, beginning a capital campaign with Generis, resolutions to apply for loans from the Texas District of the LCMS, and contracting with Axis Builders and LD Systems (Audio Visual Lighting Firm). It has been a journey filled with many challenges, but our congregation continues to stand firm on the promises of God. Like Nehemiah once told the people of Israel "The God of heaven

## **A PASSION IN GOD'S PEOPLE**

To honor God by caring for His House and making changes that will enhance the worship experience of those who meet there. This will include improving our worship space as well as audio and visual technology to better proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Himself will help us succeed; therefore, we will arise and build! We will trust His Word and believe in the Sovereign Lord who always keeps His promises.” (Nehemiah 2:20)

As the changes unfold, it is helpful to review our initial project priorities and consider the many blessings we have been able to implement with our project budget of \$2.350M. Objectives for the project include:

- 1 – Renovating the worship space**
- 2 – Increasing the seating**
- 3 – Improving the space utilization**
- 4 – Increasing visibility**

While the scope has been adjusted based on pricing changes with the materials and labor from a pre-Covid to post-Covid time frame, the project priorities have remained steady. Here are some of the highlights regarding the project scope:



**Worship Space Renovations** will be the first major change that you see when you step into the new sanctuary. New flooring was installed throughout the entire narthex and sanctuary. The previous concerns with peeling paint have been resolved with new

gypsum walls that look fresh and vibrant. This is contrasted against the deep walnut accents of the new pulpit, lectern, chancel steps, and stained cross. Two new HVAC units and controls will contribute to a comfortable, climate-controlled worship experience. As you step into the remodeled bathrooms, you will be pleasantly surprised at the honeycomb tile pattern and bright space. Additionally, we now have a family restroom with a baby changing station! Thanks to generous givers, the same flooring, walls, and lighting upgrades have been extended into both the MDO and administrative hallways. Your ears will also be quite pleased as the audio visual (AV) system which has been upgraded with new overhead speakers, lighting and a new sound board. Not to mention the integration of the new organ, cameras and ethernet wiring that will also enhance the experience of virtual worshipers. This gives us even more reason to lift our voices in praise to our Lord and Savior.

**Seating has been increased** by 10%, shifting from 280 seats up to 304. When our musicians are in at capacity the total seats round out at 330! We will now enjoy new, color coordinated, comfortable seats for our worship services. What a blessing to fill God’s house with more people, all worshipping our Creator and King!

**Improved Space Utilization** was a focus from the beginning. The biggest change included a reduction in the size of the chancel. Its length was reduced by a few feet to accommodate two additional rows of seats and new communion rails were installed to fit the shifted space. A choir area has been redesigned to include a streamlined platform and additional lighting. The previous storage closet in the back right of the sanctuary was opened up to allow more seating. The cry room was relocated to the MDO hall and includes a TV that will livestream the service. The efficient space reconfiguration provided the ability to add the family restroom, as well as, include a small storage room. The restrooms are now ADA compliant. Removing the door to the kitchen also provided additional space for an enlarged AV area in the back of the church. A new corridor door has been installed for MDO’s use during the school day. The separation of space adds a new level of security to help support this thriving ministry and protect its teachers and students. A new ADA-compliant ramp and stair were installed outside of the east door and a new ramp and grading placed near the west door by the breezeway.

**Increased Visibility** – New lighting in the sanctuary includes recessed LED lighting which provides a sleek appearance and just the right amount of illumination. The narthex includes stylish pendant lights. The bathrooms combine recessed lights and modern fixtures. The TVs in the sanctuary are larger to improve their visibility. A streamlined information center is situated beneath a now larger TV screen in the narthex to give both members and visitors easy access to information about the ministries at Epiphany.



*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

*-2 Corinthians 4:16*

As we eagerly begin to enjoy this freshly renovated space, let's take a moment to reflect on Paul's letter to the church in Colossae – "In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being **renewed** as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you." (Colossians 3:10) In this verse, Paul uses the Greek word – ananeo which means to make new, to renovate. While Epiphany offers us a fresh place to congregate, let's also prepare our hearts to be refreshed, renewed and renovated as we find joy in our new space!

