

BUILDING TO SPREAD OUR ROOTS

“Keep your roots deep in Christ, build your lives on Him, become stronger in your faith...and be filled with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:7

OUR PAST

Celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2006, Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church has its roots deep in Christ. Originally located on Main Street, the church was established as a union congregation known as the “Corporation of the German Reformed and Lutheran Congregations of Friedens Church.”

In 1886 the congregation outgrew the original building, so it was demolished and replaced by a new and larger church. In 1926 a Sunday School was added in the basement and other improvements were made.

As the Lutheran congregation continued to build its life on Christ the time arrived to construct a church of our own. The planning council purchased 8.4 acres of land along what is now Memorial Highway, the present site. The church was constructed and then dedicated on November 18, 1972. Over the years, several renovations have been completed to accommodate growth and enhance our various ministries.

OUR PRESENT

We celebrate and give thanks that the ministries of Friedens Lutheran have continued to spread their roots and branch out in increased ministries and membership.

Since 1995, average Sunday worship attendance has increased by 22.5% and Sunday School attendance has grown by 27.6%. Combined summer services as well as holiday worship feature not only a sharing of the Word and Sacraments but also a sharing of seats and space, with some services overflowing into choir pews and folding chairs. Many regular Sunday Services exceed 90-100 people – the point where the nave becomes full enough to seem unwelcoming to visitors when they look for a comfortable place to sit (i.e. no one likes to sit in the front row, or right next to a stranger!). Sunday School hour often finds God’s children of all ages in every available space including offices, lobby, the sanctuary, and all areas of the fellowship hall.

We have not only become stronger in our faith on Sundays, but also on the other six days of the week. Throughout the week we experience:

- Insufficient meeting space for church and community groups. As listed below, approximately 60 groups meet monthly at Friedens:

Community Groups

A.A.
Blood Drive
Boy Scout Food Drive
Boy Scouts
Brownies
Cub Scouts
Girl Scouts
Odyssey of the Mind
Oley Valley Music Association
Oley Valley Women’s Club

Personal Activities/Parties

Recitals
Thrivent

Church Activities

Bible Studies
Building Task Force
Cantata choir
Capital Campaign Team
CAR Team
Cherub Choir

Church Council
 Communications Team
 Concert Series
 Confirmation Overnights
 Endowment
 Finance Committee
 FLCCC Administration Comm
 FLCCC Christmas Program
 FLCCC Keystone Stars
 FLCCC Open House
 FLCCC PreSchool Orientation
 FLCCC Thanksgiving Program
 Funeral Viewing Services
 Jr. Youth Group
 Junior Choir
 Learning Ministry
 Middler Youth Group
 Mutual Ministry
 Oley Valley Food Pantry
 Outreach
 Pastoral Care Team

Prayer Group
 Property
 Senior Choir
 Senior Youth Group
 Stewardship
 Sunday School Special Activities
 Vacation Bible School
 Vision Committee
 Weddings and Rehearsals
 WELCA
 Worship and Music
 Youth Choir

Wider Church

Bread, Bowl and Bible
 East Berks Mission District
 Oley Cluster
 Oley Ministerium
 Private Counseling
 Sermon Study

- Lack of space for large group gatherings, such as congregational dinners, breakfasts, youth events, funeral luncheons, wedding receptions, youth group games, recreation, and our Cub Scout Pack.
- Overcrowded areas for Food Pantry distribution and storage as each month we help to feed 40-50 families with 2-3 tons of food.
- No space to expand current ministries, such as the library, or to create new ministries, such as daytime prayer groups, Bible studies, Christian Book Club, or senior citizen meetings.
- The need for renovations and enhancements for the current Sunday School and Child Care classrooms in order to improve the space, and enhance the quality of these ministries.

In addition, the existing building needs significant updating if we are to continue to serve God's people. Included in these much-needed renovations are new carpeting, energy efficient windows, air conditioning in the sanctuary, additional storage, upgraded parking, and complete accessibility for people with special needs.

OUR PLAN

Our visioning process, initiated in 2001, planted the first seeds of our expansion plans. Since then, the vision of expanding our ministries has taken root and flourished. Over the past year, the Visioning Committee met with members of the congregation in cottage meetings to understand members' views on needs, growth and expansion. After analyzing the information gathered in these meetings, as well as data collected from the daily usage of the building, preliminary expansion plans were developed.

The next step in our visioning process was the formation of our Construction and Renovation Team (CAR Team). This group then studied all the information and

statistical data gathered over the years, examined other church facilities and their expansion projects, met with church consultants, and interviewed several architects. As a result, the CAR Team selected Hammel and Associates to bring architectural expertise to our planning and design.

Together we have developed a plan that grows out of our Christ-centered dedication to our ministries, our youth and our community. The proposed building plan addresses our need to strengthen our congregation's mission by providing more space for our growing ministries in education, fellowship, and worship.

Education

- ◆ Add **5 additional classrooms** for Learning Ministries
- ◆ Renovate some current classrooms to make rooms larger and more flexible
- ◆ Increase total classroom space by **2,910 square feet**

Multi-Purpose Area

- ◆ Build a new 5,265 square foot area for use by the congregation for meetings and fellowship, food pantry distribution, for our three youth groups, our Scout Pack, childcare, and occasional events such as funeral luncheons and simple wedding receptions
- ◆ Renovate current fellowship area to allow for additional classroom space

Sanctuary

- ◆ Increase seating capacity by approximately **4 pews on each side** of the nave to accommodate our current and expected growth in worship
- ◆ Enlarge the sacristy to allow for storage and work space

Lobby

- ◆ Increase size from 660 square feet to 2,005 square feet to encourage extended fellowship before and after worship
- ◆ Provide a more inviting place to greet and welcome visitors
- ◆ Create a comfortable area where small groups of people can stand or sit to chat, while enjoying coffee hour
- ◆ Expand the lobby to eliminate the Sunday morning bottleneck caused by more and more people talking before and after worship, while at the same time people are entering the nave or going to Sunday School

Office Space

- ◆ Increase office space by **125 square feet** for much-needed storage
- ◆ Redesign current administrative area to include a workroom, which also necessitates moving the Pastor's office

Additional Areas

- ◆ Add **1 set of restrooms**
- ◆ Add **choir room for 4 choirs and music directors.**
- ◆ **Increase storage area** for church, food pantry, and child care

In addition to added space, the renovations will make our existing building **much more energy efficient.**

THE COST OF OUR PLAN

Renovations to the Existing Building

Light Refurbishing	\$312,512
Heavy Refurbishing	189,090
Replacement of Current Windows	16,000

New Construction

New Classrooms, Expanded Lobby, Nave, Office & Storage	452,625
Multi-Purpose Room	794,220
Additional Windows	10,500
Air Conditioning	53,440
Kitchen Appliances	25,000
Entrance Canopy	6,000

Site Development

Demolition	20,000
Excavation, Paving, Storm Water Management, Etc.	187,938

Soft Costs & Contingency

Architects, Permits, Land Development, General Contractor	<u>413,465</u>
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Total Projected Cost \$2,480,790

OUR POTENTIAL

175 years ago Friedens Lutheran first sowed the seed of the gospel in the Oley Valley. Today we all benefit from the deep roots planted by those charter members of our congregation. Now we have the opportunity and the ability to **spread our roots** through this appeal, so that the faithful legacy of this congregation's mission may be extended in an even more vibrant way into growing ministries of education, fellowship, and worship. This is our time to step forward in faith.