



Ascension Lutheran Church

502 East Second Street

Pratt, KS 67124

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Dear Friends and Members of Ascension Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting ***FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!*** We offer this document in anticipation of some questions you may have. For any questions not included here, please contact Ron Piester at 620-546-3117 or rrpiester@havilandtelco.com or Amy Schrag at 620-388-1394 or amy_schrag@yahoo.com. This will be updated on the Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) website at <https://www.prattascension.org/for-generations-to-come> as more questions come in. Updates will be also included in the Informational Forum following the worship service on November 15 and discussed in the personal INSPIRE visits beginning the following week.

Q. What renovation work has already been completed at the church?

A: These are finished or are in progress, THANK YOU to all who helped:

- All old flooring has been removed (except for the NW basement classroom which was occupied at that time).
- The kitchen walls have been fully painted.
- Seventy-six (76) kitchen cabinet doors and forty-one (41) drawers have been removed, sanded, primed, painted, reinstalled, and lined with new shelf paper/liners.
- New brushed-stainless pulls and knobs have been installed on all cabinet doors and drawers.
- Two new Delta brushed-stainless kitchen faucets with spray nozzles were donated and will soon be installed.
- The elevator has been repaired.
- Three new energy-efficient furnaces have been installed to replace those deemed unsafe due to carbon monoxide.
- Three new higher capacity air conditioning units have been installed.
- Electrical boxes were updated to meet current compliance and safety codes.
- Energy-efficient windows replaced the existing windows on the exterior walls and throughout the basement in areas not affected by the construction.
- New window well covers have been installed over all exterior wall basement windows, not including those affected by construction.
- The northwest corner basement classroom has been completed (new ceiling fan/light, new area rug, new shelving, etc.) and is used by middle school students for Sunday Catechism Class and Wednesday FUSION.
- Two closets have been filled with FUSION/Sunday School supplies, VBS Supplies and church décor.
- Removal of unneeded fixtures or equipment is ongoing.
- Professional mold removal and air duct cleaning have been completed.
- A new underground PVC pipe has been laid on the north side of the church for water drainage.
- Demolition and reframing of two of the four basement bathrooms have been completed.
- Landscaping and beautification of the outdoor areas have been completed and included removal of overgrown or dead trees and shrubs and power washing the retaining wall.
- Installation of new handicapped signs and newly painted parking lines is completed.
- New LED light bulbs have been installed in many areas.
- Pastor's office was moved from the Strong's Insurance Building on West Second Street to its current space.
- The Internet is accessible in the church.
- A new outdoor signboard is installed in the brick church sign west of the church.

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever; and His faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:5). 1

Q. How can I help?

A. “**Work Days Wednesdays**” have been going on for several months and have had DOZENS of members donate HUNDREDS of hours of “sweat equity” to work on building renovations. Stop by any Wednesday evening to help!

Q. What changes will be made to the sanctuary and the new gathering areas?

A. These items will be completed by the construction team:

- The sanctuary will be expanded to the east to remove the unused space between the west and east additions of the building.
- Since the current roof sustained extensive hail damage (even leaking through in heavy rains), it will be replaced with a 30-year roof to include energy-efficient insulation placed under it. At this time, the flat roof does not need to be repaired.
- Exterior walls will be furred out, insulated, and sheet-rocked for greater energy-efficiency.
- A new ADA accessible entrance (vestibule) will be added to form a junction from where people may enter the sanctuary, the gathering area, or go into the basement.
- The main floor restroom will be moved to the east wall of the gathering area to allow for two stalls (including one handicapped) in each of the men’s and women’s restrooms.
- The gathering area will include a coffee bar.
- A balcony will be added over the area of the former altar; this will mirror the balcony on the south, and the space below the north balcony will be utilized for music resources (such as a piano, praise band, or choir), children’s performances (Christmas Story), or decorations (Christmas tree).
- New high efficiency, LED lighting will be added.
- New flooring will be installed.

Q. What changes are planned for the basement?

A. These items will be changed or are currently in progress:

- Higher Ground (high school youth) plan to meet in the west room of the basement and utilize the secondary kitchen and bathrooms for future gatherings (such as District Youth Gathering 2020 -virtual version), weekly Devotion, monthly Game Night, and other special events.
- A 2020 service project will include cleaning and repainting the utility room/secondary kitchen.
- Bathrooms will be updated in the main basement room (east) and the Higher Ground room (west).
- New flooring, ceiling, and energy-efficient lighting are being planned.

Q. What will the altar area look like?

A. St. John’s Lutheran Church at Moundridge will be closing at the end of 2020, and they have offered many of their fixtures to Ascension Lutheran Church. We are humbled by this generous gift.

Ascension members viewed the items which will be available in January. Although St. John’s has the final say in the distribution, ALC has indicated that it is interested in their altar, baptismal font, candelabra, altar cross, podium, and several other items. To purchase the equivalent items would cost thousands of dollars. We are deeply indebted to the members of St. John’s for this blessing to our church.

Altar paraments and candelabra were also donated to ALC from the members of the former Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. These liturgical items, too, are beautiful and very appreciated.

A team of members, working with Pastor, will design the details of the altar area. Contact Ron Piester if you are interested in working with this team.

Q. What kind of seating will be in the sanctuary?

A. One of the advantages of the proposed layout is that the area is conducive to flexible seating. While social distancing applies, the seating will continue to be spaced appropriately. Initially, the seating will be a combination of pews, new cushioned chairs, and will include some cushioned chairs with arms.

Q. What will be added to technology?

A. Two new, larger TVs (or projectors/screens) will be mounted high on the walls for increased visibility during worship. Sound will be added to be balanced throughout the sanctuary. Bill Bergner and Pastor are working together to have the most up-to-date technology that meets the needs of ALC—both for in-person worship and professional viewing in live-streamed services. Our services are currently attended regularly by several online viewers.

Q. What other rooms will be on the main floor?

A. The placement and configuration within each of these rooms are not finalized. We anticipate the main floor will include the Pastor's Office, a sacristy, a variety of multifunctional classrooms, new bathrooms, a coffee bar in the gathering area, and a storage room.

Q: How many construction bids did you seek?

A: The Building Committee and the Management Team have been in communication with several construction companies in the Pratt area as to their availability and interest in completing the renovations to the ALC building. Kessler Construction far and away meets the availability requirements and keeps the construction done by a local company. We have confidence in their construction work, their integrity, and their ability and willingness to submit the best bid to us. In preliminary discussions, they have given us ideas of things we had not considered.

Q. When will construction begin?

A. Kessler Construction is available to begin work in the first few months of 2021.

Q. How long will construction take to finish?

A. Six months to a year. Much depends on the weather and availability of resources.

Q. Where will we worship while the sanctuary is under construction?

A. Through the past five years, we have learned that we are FLEXIBLE! Worship will likely be held in the basement during the height of construction. As the elevator is already repaired, there is easy access to the basement for those who may find the stairs challenging.

Q. What will happen to the old pews and the stained-glass windows?

A. Those are available to the current members of Ascension Lutheran and the former members of Our Savior's Lutheran (first) for a donation of \$150 - \$200 each to the building fund and then will be available for purchase to anyone else.

Q. How will the renovations be paid for?

A. Friends and members of Ascension are invited to pledge a gift that is significant to each family or individual—over and above regular tithes and offerings. These commitments will be calculated, and a loan for no more than that amount will be secured through The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). The final length of time for the loan is yet to be finalized, 20 years is being considered, but we anticipate paying it off as indicated by the commitment cards. Early payments are allowed—the sooner the principal can be paid, the less interest will be charged!

Q. How long is the *FOR GENERATIONS TO COME* campaign?

A. Commitment pledges are made for three years, beginning in December 2020 through the end of 2023.

Q. What if I choose to donate over a longer period, say five years?

A. We welcome your three-year commitment, and we welcome additional commitments. Please note this in the "OTHER" section of the commitment card.

Q. Do I just write a check for the amount I commit? How will ALC collect these commitments?

A. The commitment card lists options of checks or electronic withdrawals from an account. You choose the time-interval for fulfilling the pledge.

An automatic withdrawal Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) option is also available and offered by The Peoples Bank. An EFT form is included in your packet and should be returned to Kent Domsch, Treasurer, and/or returned with the Commitment Card. You may use this form even if you are not a customer of The Peoples Bank – at no cost to you. It may be used for your regular tithing and/or for your **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME** commitment – whichever you indicate on the form.

Q. Do you accept “in-kind” donations of livestock, grain, or stocks?

A. Absolutely! If you choose to make donations of grain, livestock, or other commodities, please contact the ALC Treasurer, Kent Domsch, or the ALC President, Brian Schrag, for detailed instructions on how to complete the transaction. Stocks may be transferred to an account set up specifically for this purpose at The Peoples Bank. Contact Brian Schrag at (620)388-1710 or bschrag@thepeoplesbank.net for more information.

Q. If I want to donate a specific item as a gift or as a memorial, how do I do that?

A. Contact Ron Piester or Amy Schrag to indicate what you wish to donate to see that it fits the overall plan for the renovations and to assure that another, similar item is not already planned.

If you wish, an “in-kind” receipt may be completed to document your donation; thank you!

Q. Will other fund-raising be completed to support **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME?**

A. Yes! We plan to continue Trivia Night on the first Saturday in February and may host other fundraisers or functions (social distancing will apply, as necessary, for the health of all in attendance). In addition to supporting the campaign, these events allow ALC to **CONNECT, GROW, and SERVE** in the Pratt Community.

Q. What if I am financially unable to fulfill my commitment over the three years?

A. We fully recognize that “life happens.” God’s timing is always perfect. Commitments can be continued over a longer time. Please contact the ALC Treasurer and indicate the changes to your plan.

Q. I am eligible for Thrivent Action Teams. How do I apply for these to support Ascension Lutheran Church?

A. Contact Amy Schrag, Shannon Bergner, or Brenda Piester for ideas and to make sure an action team idea is not duplicated. They can also assist with how to word the application.

ANYONE is eligible to become a Thrivent member by owning Thrivent products or with a \$20 annual membership fee. Then, you are eligible to apply for a Thrivent Action Team! Contact Brenda, Shannon, or Amy for more details. The application is simple!

Q. When do I begin giving?

A. Commitment Sunday will be December 13. **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME** supporters will indicate their commitment on a card that will be collected during the morning worship service. If you are unable to attend in person, your commitment card may be mailed in the envelope provided or dropped by the church office before December 13.

A Christmas celebration banquet will be held Sunday evening, December 13, to praise and thank God for the blessings bestowed on Ascension Lutheran, and — **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**. Special invitations will be mailed for this event, and RSVP responses will be expected.

The initial offering for the **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME** campaign will be collected during the “First Gifts” Worship Service on December 20 (or it may be mailed). Offering envelopes for the campaign will be provided to help the church financial team differentiate between regular offerings and the **FOR GENERATIONS TO COME** offerings.

THANK YOU for your faithful support of Ascension Lutheran Church -- FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

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