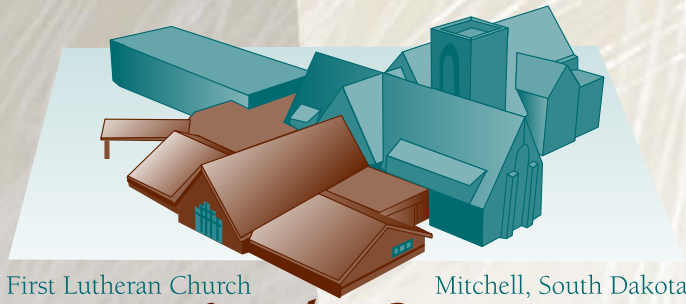


GATHER



First Lutheran Church

Mitchell, South Dakota

And Grow



*A Campaign in Support of Facilities
Expansion and Enhancement*

*First Lutheran Church
Mitchell, South Dakota*



First Lutheran is a vibrant faith family that dates back to 1888. For over 100 years, our church has been ministering to the needs of our community and providing faith filled ministries to strengthen our bond with Christ. And while facilities and faces have changed somewhat over the years, one thing remains the same...our commitment to Christ, to one another, and to the betterment of our community.

As a result, our church today is an increasingly active community comprised of over 600 households. Led by dedicated pastors, staff, and a strong corps of lay leaders and volunteers, there is an increasing number of ways that people of all ages and backgrounds are participating in the spiritual, educational, social and service ministries of our community.

Yet, despite our long history of activity and accomplishment, there are some critical challenges that remain.

Our facilities are aging, and with the current population growth in the area, we are bursting at the seams. This presents us with challenges that we must address if we are to continue to minister to God's people and offer a welcoming, safe, accessible environment to all.

Fellowship Hall Space Needs

The current Fellowship Hall is located in the church basement and accessible mainly through steep and cramped stairways. This is inconvenient for most and almost impossible to access for those members with physical limitations. The hall itself is too small to host the functions our growing church community needs, and the current kitchen is inadequate. It is also unsuitable to serve as an area to meet and greet one another before or after services because of its accessibility issues. This lack of accessibility inhibits many members – especially our elderly – from fully and freely participating in many of our church activities and ministries.

Gathering Space Needs

The Glass lobby currently serving as our gathering space is too small to serve in this capacity for our growing congregation. As people are leaving the first service, others are trying to enter through the same small space. The congestion caused by this inhibits people from fostering fellowship between our members and visitors to our church. In addition, it makes entering and exiting the sanctuary difficult and creates an “unwelcome atmosphere” that isn't the nature of our church. Moreover, in order to enter the sanctuary, people have to use narrow steps which make it difficult for many to use the lobby as an access to our facilities. In order to build the more closely connected and committed community we desire, we need an easily accessible and ample space for members to meet and greet one another after services or to gather before or after weddings, funerals or other sacred events.

Classroom Needs

Our current classroom space is also severely limited and located in different areas of the complex. Sunday school enrollment is up. Right now there are over 265 students enrolled, and that number is increasing. Last year alone there were 30 baptisms, and nearly 30 new families joined our congregation. With the increase in Sunday school participation as well as the increase in youth and adult Sunday school classes, we have outgrown all of the space that was set aside for this very purpose. Without an increase in classroom space soon, we will be severely limited in our ability to educate our children, youth and adults in our faith.

Accessibility Issues

Scripture clearly communicates that “the world will know we are Christians by our love” for each other. How we treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ is significant to our faith. Yet the current configuration of entrances and exits in and out of our church facilities as well as within our church facilities inhibit many from fully participating in the life of our church. The east entrance of the church, once used by most, is no longer the primary entrance mostly because only “on street parking” is available. Currently the west entrance has become the main entrance, but as stated earlier, this area is crowded and too small for our current facilities.

Additionally, our elevator is no longer adequate either in size or reliability. It frequently breaks down and is too small and cramped to accommodate our members or visitors in wheelchairs, thus making it difficult, if not impossible, for these members to participate in the fellowship opportunities in our church. It is also not in line with how our church wants and needs to serve and care for everyone in our church family and others who visit our complex.

Our Needs

“Just as our forefathers and mothers sacrificed to make our church better, we are called to do likewise for those who will follow.”



Our Plans

*“Keep your lives
free from the love
of money and be
content with what
you have, because
God has said
‘Never will I leave
you, never will I
forsake you.’”
Hebrews 13:5*

To address these critical needs, we have an exciting plan:

Family Life Center (New Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space)

Our plan calls for constructing a new and easily accessible, ground level fellowship hall at the south end of our existing church building. It will include a new kitchen to serve our congregation and visitors and will be able to seat nearly 300 people for various church functions such as space for alternative worship, receptions, funeral luncheons and other special events. Its location on the main floor of the church building, just adjacent to the chapel and sanctuary, will enable it to be accessible by everyone. This new Family Life Center will also enable our congregants to mingle in fellowship, meet and greet one another and visitors to our church and build stronger relationships and connections with people over coffee and other refreshments in a warm and welcoming environment.

Increased Classroom Space

Adding the new fellowship hall will also allow us to build needed classroom space to serve our growing congregation. Several classrooms will be built in the new fellowship hall's lower level. We also plan to relocate a classroom that is currently situated on the main floor on the church's east side to the upper level. These additional classrooms will provide us with ample space for our growing congregation and allow us to properly serve and educate our Sunday school students as well as our youth and adults.

Addressing Accessibility Issues

We will also be adding a new, reliable and larger elevator that will provide access to all three levels of the church. In addition, we will be adding a main floor entrance to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and gathering space on the southwest side of the current church. This will provide a larger and more centralized access to the sanctuary. Our current glass lobby, which now serves as our main gathering area, will continue to serve as an entrance to the facilities, but the floor will be raised to provide for easier access accessibility to our facilities

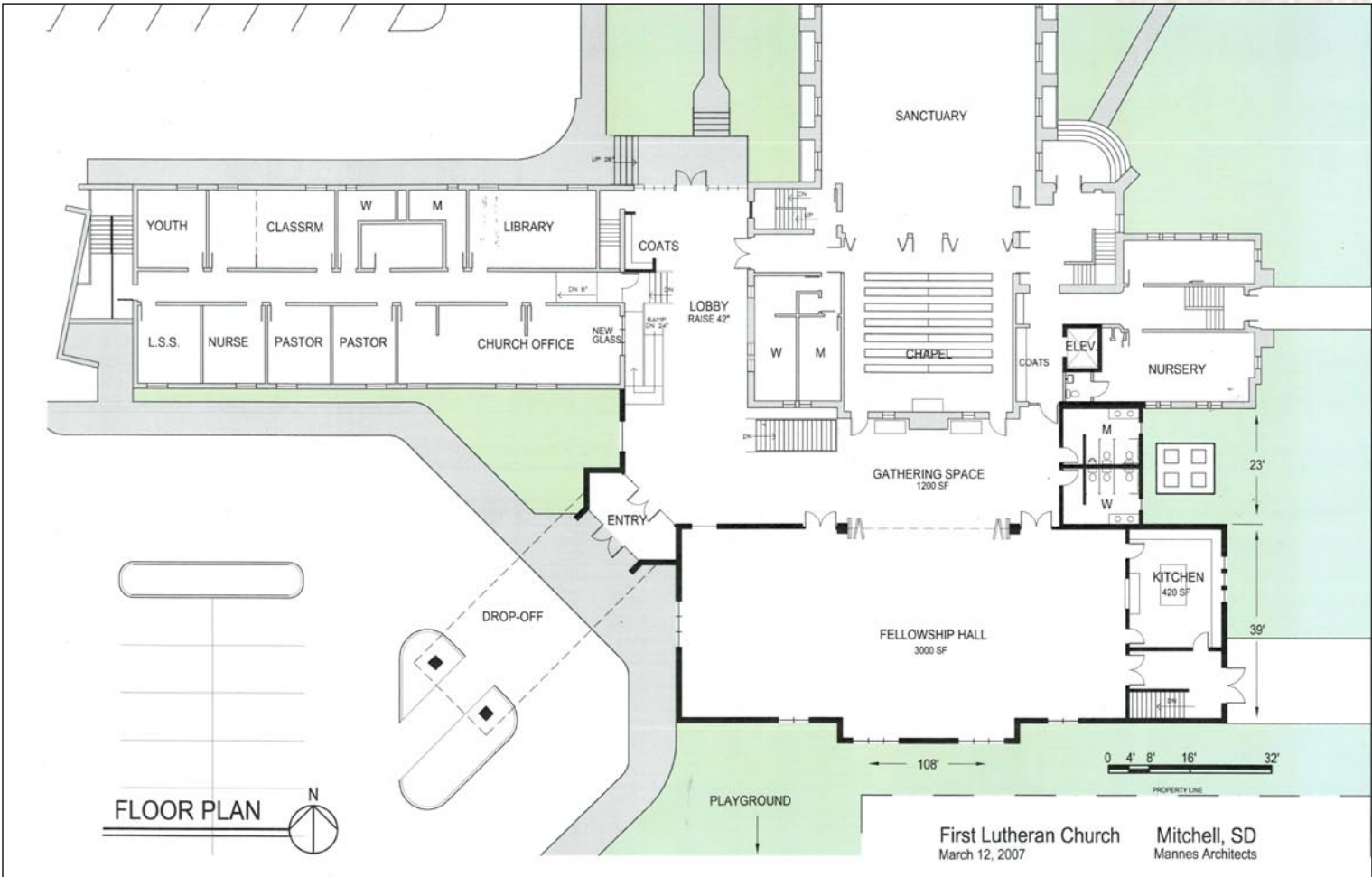
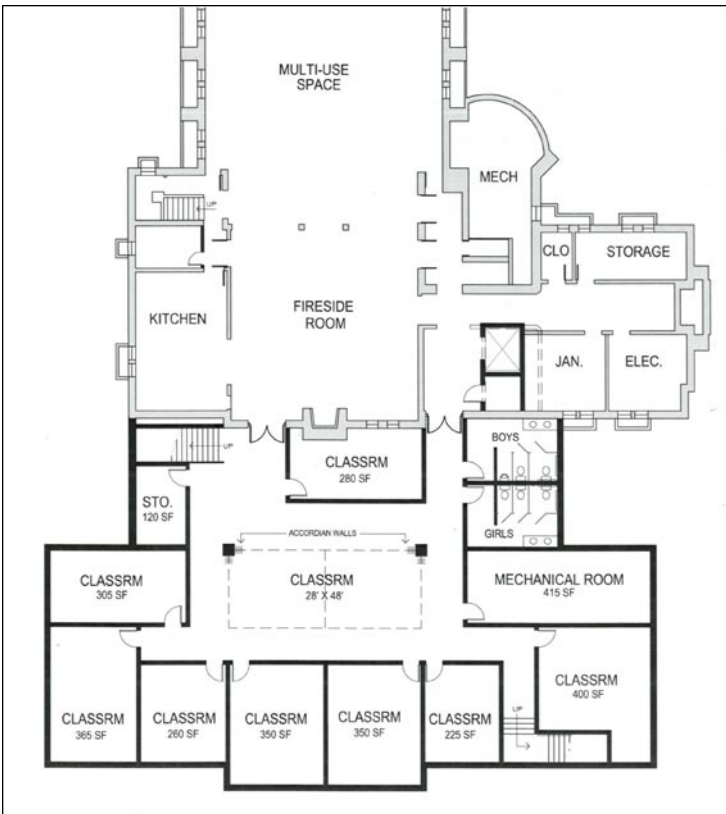
Other Improvements

The addition of the new Fellowship Hall allows us to further improve our facilities in new and exciting ways.

- We plan to continue to use the current fellowship hall as a youth room for confirmation and other youth activities as well as an area for other social functions such as quilting gatherings.
- The nursery will be moved from the upper level of the church to the main floor making it more accessible to parents and easier to access from the sanctuary.
- A canopied entrance and drop-off area at the entrance to the new Family Life Center will provide easier access for people with limited physical abilities as well as shelter from inclement weather.



Our Plans



Our Campaign

To address our needs and plans we are initiating an intensive fund raising effort titled the **“Gather and Grow”** campaign. Our aim with this important effort is to raise the funds required to build a new Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space, expand our classroom space, enhance and expand our entrances and exits, and provide greater accessibility for all members to our facilities. Our minimum goal is \$1,000,000 which will enable us to begin construction of the additions and enhancements. An ultimate goal of \$2,000,000 has also been set which, if met, will enable us to complete the project with little or no debt.

**Minimum Goal
\$1,000,000**
**Ultimate Goal
\$2,000,000**

“Recognize that all you have and are, are gifts from God and respond appropriately by sharing what you have in a loving and lasting way with those who seek to do His will and work. This is the essence of what it means to be a sound steward, to emulate the example and become a disciple of the ultimate steward – Jesus Christ.”

Levels of Support Needed to Succeed

To reach our financial objectives, we will need both a substantial number of givers and a few, fairly substantial gifts as this chart of gifts needed illustrates:

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Minimum Need
\$ 400,000 or more	1	\$ 400,000
\$ 200,000 - 399,999	2	\$ 400,000
\$ 100,000 - 199,999	4	\$ 400,000
\$ 50,000 - 99,999	4	\$ 200,000
\$ 20,000 - 49,999	10	\$ 200,000
\$ 10,000 - 19,999	20	\$ 200,000
\$ 9,999 or less	259	\$ 200,000
Total	300	\$2,000,000



Gift Options

All members are asked to consider gifts above and beyond what they give in their regular offerings and other contributions. And people can make gifts in a variety of ways.

- Long term subscriptions, or pledges payable over three years, are easier for most and essential to meeting our goal, since it would be impractical, if not impossible, to reach our objectives with one time, out-of-pocket gifts. Gifts may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments at the donor's discretion. We encourage you to start your pledge with a 10% initial investment toward your total.
- Non-cash gifts are an additional or alternative way you can support our cause. You may, for example, wish to consider gifts "in kind" such as labor and materials; gifts of securities such as stocks and bonds; gifts of real estate or even personal property such as artwork, automobiles, jewelry and antiques.
- And finally, you can also choose to support our efforts through deferred gifts. These are gifts that can be given or arranged for now, but will not be received until later, and include gifts through a person's will by bequest, gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, and gifts in trust.

Gift Opportunities

Donors can also select from several, specific gift opportunities which give donors of qualifying gift amounts the unique chance to designate their gift to a particular portion of the project and dedicate it in honor or memory of persons they choose. These special gift opportunities include:

Building Gifts

Family Life Center (Welcome) \$ 500,000

Special Sections and Room Selections

Fellowship Hall/Gathering Space	\$ 300,000
Gathering Space	\$ 150,000
Canopied Entrance	\$ 50,000
Kitchen	\$ 75,000
Elevator	\$ 75,000
Youth/Quilter's Room	\$ 50,000
North Entrance	\$ 50,000
Nursery	\$ 30,000
Classrooms:	
Large (2)	\$ 30,000 ea.
Medium (8)	\$ 20,000 ea.
West Sanctuary Entrance	\$ 10,000
Parking Space (45)	\$ 2,000 ea.



* Prices of the stated items are not necessarily reflective of the component's cost. Rather they are based on the prominence of the item, our needs, and hopefully, the gift abilities of our community. Although payments for these gifts may be made over the entire pledge period, recognition will not be received until the gift is paid in full.

Pledge Plans

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
Matthew 6: 19-21*

Suggested Pledge Plans (Three-Year Pledges)

Gift Level	Total Gift	(10%) Initial Investment	Weekly *	Daily *	Payment Plans			
					(36) Monthly	(12) Quarterly	(6) Semi-Annually	(3) Annually
Pacesetting	\$2,000,000	\$200,000	\$11,538	\$1,644	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
	1,000,000	100,000	5,769	822	25,000	75,000	150,000	300,000
	750,000	75,000	4,327	616	18,750	56,250	112,500	225,000
	500,000	50,000	2,885	411	12,500	37,500	75,000	150,000
	250,000	25,000	1,442	206	6,250	18,750	37,500	75,000
	100,000	10,000	577	82	2,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
	75,000	7,500	433	62	1,875	5,625	11,250	22,500
	50,000	5,000	288	41	1,250	3,750	7,500	15,000
	40,000	4,000	231	33	1,000	3,000	6,000	12,000
Major	30,000	3,000	173	25	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
	25,000	2,500	144	21	625	1,875	3,750	7,500
	20,000	2,000	115	16.44	500	1,500	3,000	6,000
	15,000	1,500	87	12.33	375	1,125	2,250	4,500
Community	10,000	1,000	58	8.22	250	750	1,500	3,000
	5,000	500	29	4.11	125	375	750	1,500
	4,000	400	23	3.29	100	300	600	1,200
	3,000	300	17	2.47	75	225	450	900
Community	2,000	200	12	1.64	50	150	300	600

* These figures are provided for illustration purposes only. To minimize costs, suggested payment plans include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments.