

# NOW IS THE TIME



*A Campaign for Zion Lutheran School*

As we prepare for the beginning of our *NOW IS THE TIME: Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future* campaign to build a new pre-k through 8th grade school, our goal is to answer questions that surfaced during the planning study through a listing of frequently asked questions. You can find copies of this document as well as additional campaign materials on our website ([zionlutheranpierce.com](http://zionlutheranpierce.com)).

## **Why is a two-story building necessary? Why not build a single-story school?**

Architects tell us a two-story school is our only option. A single-story school would require the use of the entire playground space, leaving our students with no place for recess.

Our 1915 school building technically is a two-story school, with two classrooms located in the basement.

## **What will happen to the original 1915 school?**

Eventually we will tear down the structure and convert the space into an expanded playground. We will preserve the bell and original school sign as an homage to the building that educated thousands of former students.

## **What is the plan for the 1970s addition (two classrooms) by the gym?**

We will use those classrooms for a variety of ministry activities and meetings, including seventh and eighth grade public school confirmation classes, FaithWeavers, Vacation Bible School and Youth Group meetings, as well as other gatherings and group activities.

## **Will the new school building have new meeting space?**

The most accessible room will be the new first-floor school library. Church members and parents may use it as needed for various meetings and functions.



## **Will the new building include a video security system?**

Ensuring the safety of our children and grandchildren with the installation of 21st-century technology is crucial for our new school. The new security system will include video cameras throughout the building and outside, as well as a secure video buzzer system at all school entrances.

## **Will the roof on the new school be flat or sloped?**

The roof will be sloped. Sloped roofs are more stable and effective when dealing with heavy rain and snowfall because the slope helps direct water away from the building.

## **What material will be used to construct the building?**

The new school will be made of steel with a brick/stone veneer and appropriately sized windows in each classroom.

## **Why is an elevator necessary? What can we expect to pay annually to maintain it?**

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires an elevator in all publicly accessible two-story buildings, including schools. We reached out to other churches in the area that have installed an elevator in recent years. Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk pays about \$500 per year to maintain the elevator in its church addition. (over)



**What will we do if we cannot raise the total cost of construction?**

We are unaware of any other building project of this size where all the money for the project was raised upfront. Even the most generous donors give their gifts monthly over a period of years.

If we need financing, we qualify through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, which offers an interest rate well below market rates. The closer we get to our \$6 million target, the less we will need to finance.

**What is the estimated annual budget (per school year) of the new school?**

In the coming months, the Building Committee and School Board will work on an estimated budget. We do not expect costs to vary wildly from our current operating costs, because we will enjoy some savings thanks to energy-efficient insulation and windows, as well as high-efficiency heating and cooling and energy-efficient lighting.

At this time, we do not plan to add to our faculty. If enrollment continues to grow, we will consider adding teachers at that time.



**What features will the new playground include?**

We will continue to use the current playground equipment. We may relocate some equipment to make more efficient use of the remaining playground area.

**Would leadership consider including the cost to replace the church roof - at an approximate cost of \$335,000 - as part of this campaign?**

This is an additional cost that we did not anticipate when we started the new school project. We recently learned that our insurance carrier intends to cancel our insurance unless we replaced the roof in the next six to 12 months. The estimated cost of a new church roof is \$335,000, but we already have a \$100,000 from a hail damage claim dedicated to this project.

For this reason, we would like to include the church roof in the capital campaign. It will be hail-proof, last for many decades and be more aesthetically pleasing than the present roof, which is now over 60 years old.

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