

# Cross CURRENTS

## YOU'RE INVITED

There was a point in my life when I was invited to plenty of weddings each year. Perhaps you can think of a similar period in your life. When you're in the middle of that season of life, a wedding invite almost becomes just another piece of mail. You start thinking about the travel. You consider the costs for lodging, gifts, and wardrobe. You calculate the time commitment. It's like you're finding reasons *not* to go to the wedding because you've already been to so many so recently.

There was a point in time when that was the case for me, and I sympathize with the time and financial commitments that weddings can come with. But now, most of my friends are all married, and it's rare that I get invited to a wedding as a guest. So, I miss those days when my weekends often were filled up with weddings. I miss the anticipation, the worship, the food, the fellowship, and the music.

Yet, I still have a wedding reception invitation, and so do you. Or, at least, we have been invited to something *like* a wedding reception. Our Savior

taught, **"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son..."** Jesus was explaining that when God's reign of grace breaks into your lives and sets up shop in your heart, it comes with blessings like a wedding banquet—food, fellowship, music, and joy. How could it not? In God's kingdom, your soul is fed with his word and sacraments. In God's kingdom, you have a community of believers to laugh and cry with you. In God's kingdom, you get to sing the song of salvation. In God's kingdom, you have the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ. God has invited you to attend this wedding banquet.

The sinful flesh looks at this invitation and says, "So what? There are plenty of other things I could do. There are better ways of spending my time." So, our sinful flesh starts to find all sorts of reasons not to go to God's wedding banquet. That's because our sinful flesh sees this wedding banquet as just another thing competing for our attention.

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son..."

—Matthew 22:1-2 (NIV)



But notice what Jesus said. "The kingdom of heaven is *like...*" It is not exactly this way. It's way better.

Rather than taking up your time, God gives you time. In his kingdom, God gives you an eternity to celebrate fellowship with him and all the saints. Rather than eating into your wallet, God puts on this party at no cost to you. You don't have to rent a room. God doesn't expect a gift. And you don't have to tip any of the angels who usher you in. Rather than leaving you wondering if this wedding is going to be awkward or a can't miss event, God assures you that he himself has prepared the dinner and spared no expense at offering you the best.

So, come. Come to God's house and hear his good news proclaimed to you. Come to God's house and receive Holy Communion, that foretaste of the heavenly banquet. God has invited and chosen you to celebrate the marriage he has with his Christian church, and that celebration has already begun. And, unlike even the best wedding you went to, the wedding banquet in God's kingdom will never end.

In Christ,

Pastor Voss



## STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Late last year, the voters at Living Water approved the formation of a steering committee under the oversight of our congregation's Council. The Steering Committee was asked to explore and recommend what, if any, renovations and/or additions Living Water should make to our current facility. The Steering Committee has been meeting monthly and has entered discussions with Anderson Ashton, a design and build firm which built our current facility. Here's where things currently stand:

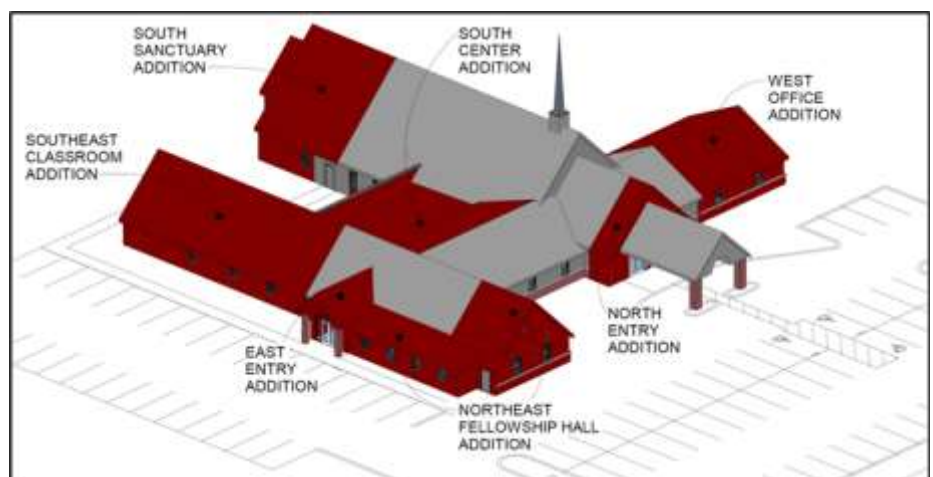
**Drawings** – Anderson Ashton has given us a set of pre-design drawings. At our request, these drawings include expanding the sanctuary to the south; adding onto offices to the west; putting on a new education wing to the south of the

fellowship hall; and renovating and enlarging our entryway, gathering space, bathrooms, and fellowship hall. These drawings would increase our square footage to about 14,000 square feet.

**Cost** – Based on the drawings and Living Water's membership, assets, and giving history, the Steering Committee feels that a project cost of about \$2.95 million would be responsible, and conversations with Anderson Ashton have kept that number in view.

**Estimated Budget** – Anderson Ashton is currently compiling an estimate budget for such a project, and the estimate is expected to come back in the first or second week of October.

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What are the next steps?

Later this month, the Steering Committee will review the most recent drawings and the estimated budget from Anderson Ashton, in hopes of approving both. If both are approved, they would be submitted to Council for its approval, with a request to be presented at an open forum and voters' meeting. At that meeting, all members will be encouraged to offer their comments and questions, and the voters could move to approve the drawings and budget. If the congregation does approve the drawings and budget,

then a "Church Expansion Finance Committee" will review the proposed budget from Anderson Ashton, research financing for a project, and develop plans to raise a down payment and to pay future loan payments.

God be praised for the opportunities he has put before us, and may he give us his wisdom as we consider and talk about the ways that our building might facilitate us giving his pure gospel to thirsty souls!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21—Craft Fair

November 2—Blood Drive

November 12—Luther Prep  
Brass Choir plays in  
worship

November 22—  
Thanksgiving Worship &  
Pie Social

December 2—Waterford  
Christmas Parade

*There God shall from all evil forever make us free,  
from sin and from the devil, from all adversity,  
from sickness, pain, and sadness, from troubles, cares, and fears,  
and grant us heav'nly gladness and wipe away our tears.*

—CW 882 st. 4

## PRAYER

Gracious King to hear our prayer:

- For those serving on the Steering Committee, that they continue to carry out their work with diligence, wisdom, humility, and confidence in your love and power.
- To bless our congregation's outreach efforts, that you might bring more to your house of worship and that we have opportunities to give your pure gospel to others in our personal lives.
- As we praise you for the heritage of the Lutheran church that has been handed down to us, that we might celebrate later this month with grateful hearts that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, as revealed in Scripture alone—all for the sake of Jesus Christ alone.
- For all those in our congregation battling physical or mental illness, especially as the flu season nears and as the days become grayer and shorter. Send your angels to protect body and mind and grant the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide them.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## CONTACT US

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## Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 22, 6:30 pm  
Pie Social to follow.

## Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20, 6:30 pm  
Fellowship Meal begins at 5:30 pm

## Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 4:30 pm

Sunday morning worship will be held at 9:00 am

## Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25, 9:00 am



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## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday** - 9:00 am

**Monday** - 7:00 pm