

# Important Ministry Listening Post this Sunday, May 5: Don't miss it!

Dear Friends of Our Father's,

Greetings in this Easter season! Signs of Spring are popping up everywhere. Along with the freshness outside, we are seeing signs of Easter living and new life at our church, too!

[Since early January, we have engaged in Ministry Listening Posts](#) to learn and discuss how the declining integrity of our siding, windows and roof in the original sanctuary are impacting current ministries. Along with the responsibility to address these structural and safety concerns, we have spent time sharing dreams about how the church building and property could be changed to support our ministries.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the Ministry Listening Posts! Your feedback, questions, concerns and dreams have helped the church Council as we prayerfully prepare to further explore possibilities for the NEW (North End Work) OFLC. What we've learned so far:

- Construction experts advise that the north end of our building needs to be addressed in the next 1-3 years.
- Potential partners were identified to guide us through the process of addressing our building concerns and the related finances: Mission Investment Funds (an ELCA partnership ministry), BankWest, Thrivent, and Gronlund Sayther Brunkow Capital Campaign Consultants.
- Over a dozen ministry leaders and community partners shared how they enjoy utilizing our spaces. They presented ideas about how their ministries and programs could be expanded through building improvements.

Our Father's is passionate, faithful and well-equipped to continue serving God in our community! In order to move forward and develop a plan that balances our robust faith and financial prudence, we have a bit more work to do. So, what's next? The Church Council is proposing two important steps forward:

1. **The creation of two teams to develop a specific, actionable plan for both ministry and building:**
  - A **Transition Team** will be created to do important preliminary work before the Call Committee is formed to begin the pastoral interview process. The Transition Team team will take a deeper dive into who God is calling us to be and what kinds of ministries God is calling us into. A strategic planning consultant will guide us to prepare for new pastoral leadership, as well as discern how the building supports our mission.
  - A **Building Exploration Team** will be created to work with building and construction experts to further explore our options for addressing the north end

work. More in-depth investigation is required to make responsible decisions that will create a useful ministry space for generations to come.

- 2. The congregation will be voting on a \$10,000 budget that the Transition and Building Exploration Teams can use in 2019 to pay for the due diligence necessary to achieve the outcomes stated above.** We will be hosting a Ministry Listening Post on Sunday, May 5 at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. The main purpose of this meeting is to review the specific building needs that are affecting ministries, to review previous information gathered, and to further describe what we see as the necessary steps forward. This will be your opportunity to participate in discussion and gain clarity about the progress made in 2019. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19 where the congregation will be asked to vote on whether to invest \$10,000 in the next steps of this journey.

2019 has been a bustling, important year for Our Father's, and the future looks bright! Please join us this Sunday, May 5 as we review, recap and pray; and mark your calendar for May 19 when we will vote on a plan to move forward toward God's future for us.

With rejoicing and Easter gladness,

Rick Fuglie

Our Father's Lutheran Church Council President