

Don't miss it: Important church building discussions taking place this month at OFLC

God's blessings and Happy New Year! 2019 is off to a bustling start at OFLC, and we want to make sure you are aware of some important building and grounds discussions taking place in January.

As you have likely heard and noticed, our beloved church building has been showing its age for some time. 2019 brings us to a time where our discussions will lead to decisions to address the flat roof, windows, and siding on the north end of the building. Our church building is literally crying out for attention, and the time to begin these heart-felt and exciting discussions about its future is now.

You may be asking yourself, "Exactly what kind of shape is our building in, and what are its needs?" "I have so many fond memories of the building just the way it is! Do things *have to* change?" "How could a transformation of our church building allow us to grow in ministry to be a blessing to our community?"

These are big questions about God's house. Our mission statement inspires and leads us in 2019. "Living Christ's love, we invite all to worship, learn, disciple and serve." As the Holy Spirit unites us in mission and discipleship, we will learn together, plan together, and work together. It is vital for all of us to be informed about our building and mission. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Participate in a Listening Session:** Our Listening Sessions will provide time to ask questions, raise concerns and lift up your dreams about what the future may hold for our building. Please note that conclusions or plans will not be decided at these gatherings; Listening Sessions are an informal forum for us to process the challenges and possibilities together. *Mark your calendar: Wednesday, Jan. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. or Sunday, Jan. 20, 10-11 a.m.*
- **Attend an exploratory meeting with Mission Investment Funds:** MIF is a partnership ministry of the ELCA. They will help us evaluate how we are currently using our space for ministry, examine what our maintenance concerns are, and advise us on potential financial options. The intent of this meeting is to break the big questions down into bite-sized pieces so that we can begin to develop a strategy and focus on next steps. *Mark your calendar: Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.*
- **Show up at the Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting is a wonderful time to reflect on God's goodness and the blessings we have observed throughout the past year. On January 27, we will repeat that tradition to include identifying the blessings our building affords, as well as share any fruits of the Listening Sessions and MIF meeting. *Mark your calendar: Sunday, Jan. 27 following worship. Breakfast will be served.*

The Listening Sessions, MIF and Annual Meeting are just a few small steps in the ongoing journey to discern what God has in store for the future of our building. You are invited and encouraged to join us at these early stages of learning, dreaming and planning so that you can be well-informed and engaged from the very beginning! Trust that as we continue to make progress in these discussions, many more opportunities to participate will be shared.

With God's Abundant Grace,
Interim Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg