

# Worship Committee August 27, 2018

[Revisions added October 10, 2018]

## Font Proposal

In 2008, extensive plans for renewing the worship space of Faith Lutheran Church were proposed. For various reasons, the plan was never followed. Several years ago, through a memorial gift from the Isehour family, we did replace the altar with a table.

It is now, in accordance with those plans from the 2008 building space committee that we propose to take another step in that renewal plan.

In accordance with the extensive plans from the 2008 building space committee, the following proposal of a new baptismal font is presented for review. We intend to keep within the proper procedure of keeping various bodies informed with ample opportunity for comments and questions. The first action is presenting this proposal to the Worship Committee at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

[We have been diligent in the process, with a report to council on September 11, which gave approval to move forward, several subcommittee meetings, and another report to council on October 8 leading to the public forum on October 22.]

### Summary:

1. In keeping with the theology of the ELCA “Baptism is a public sign,” therefore the font should be an object that conveys the centrality of the sacrament, both in physical stature and aesthetical beauty. While the current font has served us well, it is in disrepair and no longer on the same scale or design as the communion table (2012). For this reason we recommend the constructing a new font that accomplishes this.
2. Paul Sorenson is a respected member of Faith Lutheran in good standing. He has offered his services *gratis*. Mr. Sorenson already has many objects throughout the building, such as an auxiliary table for communion and baptismal supplies, an extension to the organ reading desk (that is so well crafted that it appears to be part of the original design) and many of the components for Children Worship and Wonder. The quality of his work has been widely commended.
3. The primary guiding principle of its design would be matching the communion table and embodying our Lutheran understanding of the sacrament.  
(Application 27A “As congregations are able, they may consider the creation of fonts of ample proportions filled with flowing water, or baptismal pools which could allow immersion.” The location of the font within the church building should express the idea of entrance into the community of faith, and should allow ample space for people to gather around.”)  
Due to the size of our worship space it is impractical to create a pool or include flowing water, but we are able to maintain a font that is large enough to stand out of a focal point of the place of bath. Like the original font, the new one would be moveable offering flexibility for different expressions of baptismal liturgies. (In the midst of the assembly for baptisms, at the entrance of the Nave for baptismal rites, such as thanksgiving or affirmation of baptism.)

4. After offering opportunities for congregational input, the schedule of a new font could be completed by the end of the year, opening an opportunity for its dedication on January 13 *The Baptism of Our Lord*.  
[This is still possible, but due to factors beyond our control Easter Day (April 21, 2019) is another option.]
5. A subcommittee could engage in conversation and determine how the original font could be honored.
6. The cost involved is approximately \$1200. This consists primarily of the quality designed glass basin itself, and wood that needs to be used that isn't already reclaimed.  
[This has been reduced to \$550: \$400 for the glass bowl made by Dan Barnes, and \$75-\$150 for a piece of cherry wood that would need to be purchased for the inlays. Other materials would be reclaimed and Mr. Sorenson is donating his time. Several avenues exist for funding and this in no way will detract from other ministries.]
7. This step in a building renewal is far within the scope of what was proposed in 2008 and is presented after a fairly long period of caution with regards to changes. We are confident that if the same means are used when implementing the table, then we can garner support of this important addition in the life of Faith Lutheran.  
[Visuals and Worship Committee sees the addition of a beautiful object in our worship life as something that will inspire and unite the congregation. It stands behind the project.]

Ref: "The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament," © ELCA 1997