

Parish Update



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Guided by the Light of Christ, Becoming One

by Fr. Kevin Anderson, Pastor

The momentum continues to grow as we proceed with our building project. This is important to remember, for our goal is not a new church building on a new site. Our goal has been, and continues to be, becoming one as a community. That oneness needs to be guided by the “Light of Christ” (as our name advocates) and the prodding of the Holy Spirit.

The Elk River School District, unfortunately, is not able to purchase our South Property. The leadership of our parish held a special meeting on May 16, 2017, to determine how this affects our goal. Participants at that meeting included the Parish Staff, Pastoral Council, all six Development Teams, New Facility Building Committee, Land Purchasing Committee and the Fundraising Executive Committee. In all, 49 people were present.

The group spent the evening reviewing the latest updates for the design of a new building and to share their hopes and concerns of becoming one. The Pastoral Council then met to deliberate over what was shared verbally and the results of a written survey.

The Pastoral Council, the Parish Trustees, and I then made an important decision. We decided to “trust the Holy Spirit” and begin

fundraising with the goal of focusing on the first phase of the building project. The Council felt that buyers will eventually emerge for both properties and that the time is right for us to “step up” in achieving our goal of oneness.

This first phase includes buying the 107 acres at 11604 293rd Avenue, Princeton (located on the north side of County Road 9 one mile east of Highway 169). It may also include building a new church, social hall, and kitchen plus the costs for architects, consultants, and preparing the land. We will vary phase one according to how much money is actually pledged. However, no building of structures would be started until at least one of our current properties sells. Fortunately, there has been other inquires of purchasing our properties.

The Council felt that we should capitalize on the growing momentum in the parish and to finally “go for it.” A major fundraising endeavor will begin soon. The title of this endeavor is “One In the Light.”

In the coming weeks, a comprehensive presentation will be presented for all parishioners to review and offer more feedback. In the upcoming months, you will receive information and details to help you reflect, pray, and commit to this endeavor.

We must remember that we are

planning to build a facility as a legacy for future generations. Just as Rome was not built in a day, nor can this. It takes time for thoughtful and healthy dialogue and decisions to occur. These must happen with the common good of all in mind.

Our decisions must balance forward thinking with fiscal responsibility. That is the only way we can accomplish this effort. Stay tuned. Pray for wisdom and guidance. Good things will happen with God’s help and our collective prayers and involvement.



Meet Wendy

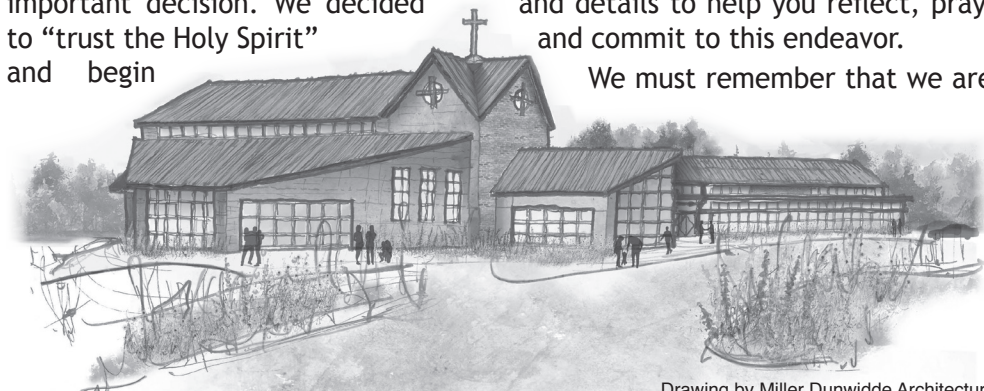
Meet Christ Our Light’s new Director of Faith Formation, Wendy Rappé.

Hi, everyone! My name is Wendy Rappé, and I will be moving from California to become your Director of Faith Formation. (Only when I say certain words does my slight accent reveal the fact that I was born and raised in Minnesota.)

Over the past 20-plus years, while raising my family, I have worked as a parish staff member, consultant, a retreat director, and a college instructor. I love parish work. With God’s grace, I have tried to build structure, competence, community, and a sense of Catholic identity within each environment I have served.

I very much look forward to meeting you this July when I start at Christ Our Light.

- Wendy Rappé



Drawing by Miller Dunwidde Architecture

A sketch of the future Christ Our Light Catholic Parish building at our proposed site.