

## ACCESSIBILITY MISSION MOMENT

On March 4, Sid Scott shared information about an important part of one of our Four Pillars of Strength, our Historic Church Building. As Jesus taught, we welcome all people to worship with us here. However, the time has come to make our building as accessible to everyone, including those with physical or mobility challenges, as we do with our spirit of Christian love and justice shown for all people regardless of who they are, or from where they came. The project to improve Church accessibility is progressing under the Trustees with Bill Miller shepherding things. An architectural firm and a contractor have been engaged to construct the following:

- **An elevator connecting all floors**, social hall, sanctuary and education building.
- **A restroom addition adjacent to the Social Hall**, meeting ADA standards
- **Upgrade of all other restrooms** to make them more welcoming and comfortable.

These improvements will cost \$625,000 to do them correctly. But, thanks to generous pledges and gifts received, we are blessed to be 52% of the way there. We will be able to start construction on April 1 with an estimated completion date of mid to late September.

The Accessibility Fundraising Team set a goal of \$300,000 to fund the remaining costs of the project. A mailing with more information on the project will be sent on March 5 to all members. The mailing explains the several options for pledges so that members can decide which option fits best. A very nice brochure, with historical highlights from our church past and more information on the project itself, along with testimonials from members who support the need for these important improvements is included.

All of us can help by making our confidential pledges known only to Nikki Ketchum by March 31. She is available to answer questions.

The seven of us on the Accessibility Team, Pastor Lillian, Steve Felsted, Addy Gard, Mark Johannsen, Ann Miller, Josh Weidemann and myself are also available. Please contact any of us if you need help understanding the mailing or the project.

Two final thoughts. First, with any construction project, there will be some disruption and inconveniences. The Trustees will work with Nikki Ketchum to keep everyone apprised of progress and any situations that might cause concern. Check the newsletter and the website for updates.

Finally, Ann Miller, our talented artist on the Team is also an excellent copywriter. She came up with five words that for us describe what this project will do for us now and for future generations at 10<sup>th</sup> and Locust. As Ann so eloquently said, “it will help us: Touchlives and Lift the Future.”

On behalf the Trustees and our Team, thanks, for your help with this wonderful project.