

A Case Statement for our proposed Fellowship Hall.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9.8

In the beginning....

In 1952 Roy Gordon met with the Mission Board of the then American Lutheran Church to establish a congregation in San Clemente. Pastor Louis Smith began his call to Our Savior's on June 14, 1953; the first church service was held at 223 Avenida Del Mar. A Sunday school bus was used to pick students up and to serve as a classroom on Sunday mornings. All other meetings during the week were held in the people's homes because the church space was rented for Sundays only.

Some church officials thought the \$28,000 was too costly to purchase the 11 acres of ocean view land in the undeveloped area above the municipal golf course; but after much prayer and consideration, in 1954, the Home Mission Board of the ALC approved a loan to purchase the land. A parsonage was built in January of 1955; ground breaking for the church took place in June of 1955; and the first service was held in the church on December 18, 1955.

It was only after three years of being incorporated as a congregation that the first preschool opened its doors to the community. This was followed by outreach into Mexico, the sponsoring of refugee families, the expansion of ministry and service both locally and throughout the world. Some years later, over half of the land was sold to pay back the original loan and provide for expanding ministries of the congregation. That which remains is the nearly 5 acre campus that sets like a jewel above the eighth tee of the San Clemente Municipal Golf course with a stunning view of Catalina and the Pacific Ocean.

Although the view is impressive, it is the people who worship, learn and serve at this family-oriented church who truly make the place special. Throughout its 65 years, the people of Our Savior's have continued to be faithful to the call of Jesus Christ and to provide for our shared ministry in this place.

New opportunities. ...

In the summer of 2003 the church council endorsed a plan to assemble a Vision Task Group to help us clarify our vision for ministry but to also set before us some strategic areas in which we should grow. After a year of intensive work, gathering of information, soliciting feedback from the congregation and analyzing our community dynamics the “Vision Statement: 2004-2009: Inspired to love, encouraged to think, and sent to serve” was created. This same vision was reaffirmed in 2012.

This statement first outlined our core beliefs:

- We are Christians, trusting in the love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ, who has come not to condemn but to save.
- We are Lutherans, anchored by the theology of the cross and the completed gift of grace.
- We learn and teach about God’s love for us by encouraging adults, youth, and children to have lively involvement with the scriptures and the world.
- We serve others within our church family, in our community, and in the world beyond.
- We share a strong and intergenerational worship life, open to all who wish to join us.
- We support and love one another by creating healthy relationships and an open, inclusive, and caring church family.

The Vision statement then identifies four strategic areas for us to emphasis: Healthy Relationships and Church Family Life; Service to Others and Outreach; Worship Life; and Learning and Teaching. We are committed to a future unfolding along these four areas.

In 2007 the congregation finished the construction of the “Welcome Center” which houses the offices for the congregation and its ministries. Within the confines of this project was also a massive renovation of our electrical, plumbing and infrastructure of the campus which included additional parking, the utilization of the hillside, the Sanctuary was enlarged, a new fully functional kitchen was built, ADA restrooms were added and our newest meeting space, The Founders’ Room was completed. All of these improvements have not only improved our ability to do ministry but added a much-needed bump in the basic curb appeal of our property.

The future is calling. ...

From the very beginning of our congregation people have dreamed of having a dedicated Fellowship Hall or gathering space that allowed the people of Our Savior's to come together in fellowship opportunities regardless of the weather. A space that not only could host memorial gatherings, weddings and parish events; but a space that could help us continue our history of reaching out into the community by providing a place where organizations and other like-minded groups might be able to meet and provide for the community. A space that would provide a focal point for our social and educational ministry and be large enough so that the Sanctuary would no longer need to function as a multipurpose building. A space that our students will be able to use for school events and activities that has multiple configurations and up to date infrastructure.

In 2015 Shig and Miyeko Kinoshita wanted to provide the means by which the people of Our Savior's would be inspired and motivated to move forward with the construction of a new Fellowship Hall here on our campus. Their gift of \$300,000 of which 2/3 has been received and the remaining \$100,000 will be received on January 1, 2018 is meant to challenge others to reach our goal in order to begin construction of the Fellowship hall in June of 2019.

Why now. ...

The addition of a Fellowship hall is not just about building for the sake of building; but for the ability to carry our mission and ministry here at Our Savior's. We can imagine the following benefits to our ministry:

- Providing the space needed for hospitality at Memorials, Weddings and other congregational functions, which is accessible to our kitchen and Founders' room.

- Providing space for organizations like Family Assistant Ministries, Friends of San Onofre Marines, and various other non-profits who are often limited by cost and availability of adequate facilities.

- Providing an Auditorium like setting for our school so that students have a space with maximum flexibility for food, school activities and events.

--Providing relief to the Sanctuary of the wear and tear that comes with being a Multi-Purpose building and restoring it to its rightful purpose as a place for worship and the glory of God.

--Providing an up to date teaching center that can utilize the very best in technology such as video, audio, and computer interactions including hearing assistance and state of the art infrastructure.

--Giving us added flexibility in worship (overflow capabilities) while providing a beautiful upgrade to our campus including an expanded pedestrian only area and a formal and well-designed entrance way to the Sanctuary.

As construction costs continue to rise, with our Master Plan still in play with the city of San Clemente, and with a generous \$300,000 gift; God has given us an opportunity to provide for the ministry needs of generations to come. This project is manageable, doable, and well within our means to accomplish. It will however require all of us to work together and to give generously out of the abundance that God has already given us.

Join with us as we pray for the vision of this opportunity to be caught, generosity to flourish and God's continued presence as we move forward in our mission and ministry together.