

JOY!FUL NOISE

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth... Psalm 98:4

Upcoming on our church calendar:

December 17 Church offices will be relocated to the PowerHouse until April.

December 24 Family-focused Christmas Eve Worship at 4pm. Candle-light Christmas Eve Worship at 7pm and 11pm

December 25 Lessons & Carols style worship at 10:30am



January 1 Sunday worship at 10:30am

January 8 Worship at 9 and 10:30 am followed by **move out of the building workday!!**



January 15 Worship at Marcus Cinema with fellowship at 9:30 and worship at 9:45am! Youth groups will continue to meet on the same days and times—just up the street at Lakeland!

I've stopped praying that this will be the year that the snow will stay north of Lake County. I trust Paul when he says don't be anxious about anything just put it to prayer and you will have the peace of God (Phil 4:6). But on this one, I've stopped praying...anxious or not. This morning there were a few snowflakes. I know it means that more are coming. Someone told me that prognosticators are saying that we are going to have a lot of snowflakes this winter. So normally I would go immediately into days and weeks of focused prayer, but not this year...at least not about the snow. First of all I know that my prayers would have to go up against the prayers of scores of kids who want snow. I've finally given up on that one. But what is more important I think, is that I'm just going to leave it up to God and trust that spring will come again. I know that you might be thinking that this is no great feat of faith, but that just means you don't really know me.

Kidding aside, the coming of a few snowflakes points me to the nearness of Christmas. I've found the Bible stories leading to it to be especially inspiring this year. During worship we've focused on the journeys of Mary and Joseph that lead up to their passage from Nazareth to Bethlehem. In those stories we see two inspiring people who have decided to put their future in God's hands not knowing just what will happen but that God will be there...and that is enough. They may have been thinking about praying their way out but there is no record of them actually doing it. They instead look to the future with hope and promise.

My prayer for you in this season of your life, and ours together, is that like Mary and Joseph you will live into God's promises like never before. I'm praying that Christ will come anew into your hearts and lives and that you will live with a godly vigor and undeniable hope. So rather than try to pray the snow away let's pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

Pastor Scott

Joy! Library

'Tis the season of Advent, Christmas and change, at Joy! Lutheran Church! We were planning on sharing new library materials with you in the church lobby this month. However plans have changed as we relocate the church office and personnel to their temporary home in the Power House during our remodel phase. So, now library materials will be available in their Power House location whenever the office is open. Stop by and sign out a book, CD or DVD to enjoy at home during this wonderful holiday season!

December 2011

December Council Update:

Council opened the November meeting in prayer, giving thanks for the positive vote given to support moving forward on the building plans, prayers for the transition, prayers as we head into commitment Sunday.

Updates were provided surrounding initial plans process for the worship space, staff's use of the new performance management process, and the coordination of the temporary move from the church and the transition to off site worship.

Council is planning a Governance Workshop to discuss differences in leadership: operational, transformational, and strategic; as well as, Leadership/Policy Governance Model.

New business topics included discussion of a Joy! Privacy Policy, external communications (about Joy! to the outside community), and holy season worship times.

Additionally, we continued our discussion of the book, The Emotionally Healthy Church.

We are very optimistic about the adventure we are heading into with our off site worship and building plans.

Joy! Lutheran Church

Financial Results - OCTOBER 2011

	<u>October 2011</u>		<u>YTD October 2011</u>		<u>Last Year -2010</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>				
<u>What God has provided:</u>								
<i>GENERAL FUND</i>				<i>BUILDING FUND</i>				<u>YTD October 2011</u>
Total General Offering	40,325	46,000	150,795	166,000	155,466	Beginning Cash Balance	255,843	
Facilities Support Offering	3,045	2,900	9,057	11,800	17,218	Capital Campaign Offering	265,423	
Investment and Other Revenues	<u>1,395</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>8,599</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>7,015</u>	Interest Income	5,309	
Total Income	44,766	49,124	168,451	181,708	179,699	Capital Campaign Expens	(36,720)	
						Construction Expense	<u>(251,110)</u>	
						Ending Cash Balance	238,745	
<u>How we used it to minister:</u>								
UP Ministry	3,495	2,655	7,051	6,385	4,906			
IN Ministry	540	225	2,232	1,650	1,509			
OUT Ministry	4,315	4,786	16,933	17,362	19,570			
Staffing Expense	33,636	30,343	115,621	123,953	104,543			
Building Operations	2,816	3,675	12,652	14,850	15,337			
Mortgage Expense	4,199	4,810	16,796	21,520	16,796			
Administrative	<u>1,310</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>21,064</u>	<u>10,740</u>	<u>10,840</u>			
Total Expenses	50,311	47,894	192,348	196,460	173,501			
Net Change in our Reserves	(5,545)	1,230	(23,897)	(14,752)	6,199			

Greetings during this Christmas Season!

Our year-to-date thru October General Fund offerings are under budget \$15,205, approximately \$8,000 per month, while our expenses are \$4,112 below budget. The Facility Support offerings (mortgage, building maintenance, etc) is \$2,743 below budget YTD. We currently have a loss for the month where expenses exceeded offerings by \$5,545, year-to-date we have a loss of \$23,897. Our General Fund cash balance at 10/31/11 was \$27,002 and the amount due to the Building Fund was \$45,660.00.

The So That Lives Are Changed capital campaign pledges received year-to-date are \$265,423. Again, many thanks to those who are contributing to this campaign. Capital Campaign expenses to date are \$251,110. The checking account balance of the Building Fund at 10/31/11 was \$238,745.00. The construction loan from the Mission Investment Fund will begin when we near \$50,000 in the Building Fund account.

The Mission Fund Investment application has been resubmitted, requesting a construction loan of \$2,600,000 after the approval of the resolution on November 6, 2011. Most recent expenses paid on the construction project have been to the architect and excavator. As we near the internal renovations, we hope to have the loan funds in place to draw from. We will then begin making interest payments only.

100X52X10 Campaign Fund - thank you to the many families who chose their team (Bears, Packers, other) and have given or are giving weekly to the mini-campaign to help cover the deficit budget for 2011-2012. Approximately \$37,440 will be added to our offerings to help our shortfall.

2011 Contribution Statements thru 10/31/11 are available in the lobby or will be mailed to your home. Contributions for 2012 must be received in the church office by 12/31/11 for your year-end statement.

Pray boldly to the God who provides all!

The Finance Team

From the desk of Cheryl O'Neill Director of Children & Family Ministry

We're very excited about God's Plan this Winter at Joy!, and we want you to know what you and your children need to do to participate as we move to Marcus Theater for Worship beginning on January 15, 2012. The Children's Ministry Team has been working hard to gear up for the move and has created a curriculum for KAK families to participate each week in the church-wide study called "40 days of Community: Better Together."

Our theme for these 40 days is "Interstate 4 One Another." Each child will make a passport on Sunday, January 8th during our regular Kids' Adventure Klub. This activity will begin our "Adventure" together before we move out of our facilities. Then we will have your child(ren)'s passport waiting for them at the theater on the 15th. You will need to check in at the "Rest Stop" to have the passport stamped and to pick up materials for your family to do together during the week. Each week the kids will be able to pick out a prize from our "Treasure Chest" after completing the curriculum. The Interstate 4 One Another curriculum will coincide with the themes used during worship. The service will include a children's time that fits the theme for the day. Worship will be modified with the kids in mind. (Pastor Scott promises that the messages will be 'a lot' shorter!).

Each child that participates during at least 5 weeks of these 40 days and has their passport stamped, will receive two movie theater tickets on February 26th when we return to the church and our regular rotation workshops. It is just some added fun for the kids and an incentive for your whole family to participate. We know that it might be a challenge to bring your child(ren) to worship each week at the movie theater but think it will be worth it. We look forward to having all of our families worshipping together.

Here are the basics:

We will have Kids' Adventure Klub on **January 8th** here at Joy! It will be the kick off of "Interstate 4 One Another."

When we move to the theater on **January 15th**, we will not have our regular Kids' Adventure Klub rotation. Instead there will be a worship experience at 9:45 AM for the entire family.

Each week, bring your child(ren) to the "Interstate 4 One Another Rest Stop" (Children's Ministry Table in the theater lobby) to have their passport stamped and to pick up the materials and challenges to do during the following week. Each week the children will get a mini license plate to put on their keychain as well.

Come back each Sunday after completing the weekly challenges to pick out a prize from our "Treasure Chest."

We realize that this is a "shift" in the way we do things. Besides being necessary it is also our hope to support you in making your home a faith center. That is actually an important part of our Family Ministry vision. It is vital for parents to be teachers and examples. It is powerful when parents teach their children the truth of God and show them how to love God by loving God in front of them. Nothing fancy. Beautifully simple! Deuteronomy 6:4-7 says: *"Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is the one and only God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength. The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up."* (NIRV)

So...during these 40 days we will equip you, pray for you, pray with you, and encourage you to grow together in faith!!!

We will have information meetings to answer any questions you may have about this program on Sunday, December 4th in your child's classroom, as well as on December 18th in Room 7 following both services.

We are so very blessed to be partnering together with you in Ministry!



Serving - - ageless



Volunteers in action

In November Joy! servants of all ages showed the love of God at the Grayslake P.A.D.S. shelter. Thank you to the Joy! staff for serving a truly wonderful, home-cooked Thanksgiving feast, to Pack 67 Webelos scouts for setting up the sleeping areas and making beds and to all who greeted guests with a welcoming smile. Your teamwork was a blessing to all.

Changes

Due to an unusually warm fall, guest numbers have been lower. Now that the temperatures have dropped significantly, guest numbers are expected to return to the usual pattern or even higher. The good news is that fewer children have needed the shelter this year. Also, in November two guests celebrated important milestones: one woman was moving into her own apartment and another was entering an addiction treatment center.



Ongoing needs for P.A.D.S. guests

- travel-sized:
 - deodorant
 - toothpaste
 - foot or baby powder
- cough drops,
- nail clippers and files
- razors
- lip balm
- hoodies & sweatshirts
- adult backpacks or duffle bags

Please continue to keep the PADS ministry and the guests we serve in your prayers, asking for the guests' safety and warmth, and that this season will bring them hope. As always, please contact the P.A.D.S. co-leaders with any questions or concerns.

Joy!fully serving the Lord,
 Angela List-Sheets 847-548-5918
 blueturtle727@hotmail.com
 Jean Hackbert 847-548-4261
 jhackbert@sbcglobal.net

January-A Month of Undies

P.A.D.S. guests really appreciate receiving clean, new underwear when they stay at the Shepherd of the Lakes shelter on Mondays. All adult sizes are needed, especially larger sizes (XL through XXXXL). During January please drop off your donations during the week at the Joy! office or on Sundays when you come to worship. Look for the display. Needed items:

- white athletic socks
- women's socks
- underwear (panties, briefs, boxers)
- t-shirts
- long underwear

Let's fill the closet!

Attention: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Insurance and Annuity Policy Holders

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a faith based, not for profit, fraternal organization, allows its members (that's you!) to designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to designated charitable organizations, including Joy! Lutheran Church. If members do not choose to have their portion given to Joy! Thrivent will give those dollars to other national, not for profit organizations. We use these bonus dollars to provide financial assistance to mission teams, youth and other projects sponsored by our church. So if you don't take the time to designate your Choice Dollars to Joy! we will lose out! Under the new Thrivent Choice system, Joy! has the potential to receive even more funds from Thrivent Financial than we have in the past, but only if Thrivent Financial Benefit Members participate in the program and designate Joy! as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice Dollars. For more information go to: www.thrivent.com or contact your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative.

COOL Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated food for COOL Thanksgiving food drive, the pantry clients and staff really appreciated the donations. We will continue to collect food in the cart near the front door. COOL Pantries helps feed the hungry in Lake County through generous donations like yours. The pantry is asking for canned hams for Christmas, (3 lb ones are available that need no refrigeration). As always all food donations are accepted and appreciated, thank you for helping!

OUT Event -

GodFellows members Mike Morse and Mike Turchi ran in the 1st Annual C.O.O.L 5k Race held on Saturday Nov 26th at Old School Forest Preserve to help raise funds and food for COOL. God provided excellent weather for the event 54 and no rain. The run had 175 participants and they raised over \$4,277 as well as collected hundreds of pounds of food for the C.O.O.L Food Pantry and Transitional Housing Program. Also thank you to the Kechik's for their generous food donation delivered to the event.

Hey Everybody!

I hope you guys are doing well at the mid-week hump! Here's a couple of updates for what's going on in Student Ministry life over at Joy!

The first update is that it is settled, during the building blitz for Joy! we're going to be packing up Student Ministries and heading over to Lakeland Church. Our first Wednesday (Crossroads) over there will be January 18th, and our first AtF will be January 15th. It's just up the street at 440 N. Hunt Club Road, and we'll be reminding everyone over and over, but please join us over there. Same times, new place! They're being very gracious with their facilities and we can't wait to partner with them. We'll be joining up with their middle school ministry (Their youth guy, Seth, is awesome and he'll be hanging with us for a few weeks until we give him a break because they are expecting their first baby right when we'll be partnering with them!) but AtF will have the building to itself on Sunday nights.

We have two winter retreats coming up in February. These are going to be a HUGE blast, so we want to get it on your radar now so that no one misses out on going. The Crossroads retreat is February 24-26th and the Atf High Schoolers will be February 17-19th! We will need a deposit by the 29th of January to hold a space for your student!

Make sure you're signed up for the weekly email newsletter (eNews) from Ann which will give you the updates on Joy! in general, and will keep you updated weekly on the happenings at Student Min with a Student Min eNews too. We have lots of fun videos of what we do, so if you want a sneak peek into a Wednesday or Sunday night, check it out!

You can always find our calendar of events, videos and pictures at the Student Ministry Website: www.joystudentmin.com. We keep it constantly updates so you are always in the know!

Thanks so much and we'll see you soon!

In Christ,

Colin



What's Happening by Relational Ministries Coordinator, Jenelle Ancona

IN Small Groups-

Throughout the month of November I have continued to travel to small groups at Joy! all the while giving thanks for the opportunity to witness firsthand the depth of relationships that have been fostered in our groups and the amount of personal and spiritual growth stemming from their commitment to each other as a small group. It's been a joy to see people dig into God's word, pray with each other, hold each other accountable, challenge each other, fellowship with one another, serve each other and share their plans to serve others. This is a community of faith that truly knows how important it is that no one journey alone- that life is better done together as it has been throughout time.

Acts 2:42-47 They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity -- all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved

If you have yet to experience small group life at Joy! then please contact Jenelle Ancona for more information. New ideas for small groups are welcomed.

IN Connections-

As we look toward Christmas, many of our hearts are filled with warm memories and eager anticipation of the celebration to come but for others it's a difficult time of year. People who are lonely, lost, grieving, confused, depressed, and struggling in various ways may look upon this season as just a time of continued pain. As Christians we know Christmas can be and is about more than that.... Its about peace, hope and love through the Christ child who was sent to earth by a God willing to be born into the woes of a fallen world. And although we know this its still hard to truly fathom that kind of love- the love that was sent to us on that first Christmas morn; an indescribable gift from Heaven. So this season we have a unique opportunity to invite folks to hear this message of peace, love and hope and to let them see how deeply God cares for them. Therefore....don't let seasonal busyness, fears, or simple indifference stop you from inviting folks to church to be reminded of Gods love for us through the birth of Christ Jesus. This is the time... be that community we say we are- one that is passionate about reaching our neighbor with Christs love... go INVITE and be a LIGHT to those who could really use one.!

IN First Impressions-

With many visitors continuing to walk through our doors and the potential for more and more during this holiday season it continues to be important to be the welcoming, loving, accepting community we say we are. Go out of your way to meet a new face and be hospitable. A sincere thanks to those who intentionally served in the areas at Joy! that help create this welcoming environment in November- Pat Debeau, Joe Wignall, Tom Wiseman, Jill Harmon, Sean Collett, Jerry Vrabel, Holly Fadlovich, Lisa Baker, Brian Baugh, Carlos Landaeta, the McCumber family, Rose & Mark Froseth, Mike Turchi, Issy Lugo, Laurie & Kelly Ditmars, Cathy Kramer, Laura Shambert, Michael & Michelle Hood, Steve Jensen, Jim Kerwin, Steve & Becky Valenta, Misha Ohrt, Helen Main, Jutta Zielinski, Gail Foster & family, Kathy Bianchi, Nancy Prokof, Peg & John Holm, Gary Koehler, the Gallagher family, the Hettlingers, Sue Bailey, Kim & Greg Forch, Cindy Johnson, Carolyn Miller, Mary Quisenberry, Kathe Swanson, Bob Lenning, Sharon Monahan, Ann Bowman, Thomas Van Zeyl, Sharon Newlin, Penny Stueber, Sandi Hansen, Riley Maguire, Talea Bloom, Michelle Bastiani, Jon & Lynn Beausoleil, Laura Collier, Kyle Rowles, Kevin & Donna Suchsland, Roland & Jennifer Bellman, Jerry Voigt, Mark Zentner, Sean & Shelly Colburn, Deana Horne, Cheryl O'Neill, Pastor Scott, Anita & Bob Koch, Elmer & Alanda Klein, RaeAnn Mitchell, Larry Bloom, Steve & Jenny Mayer, BJ Sutton and Jill Jackson.



Preliminary 2012 Commitment Results Are...

In November we as a congregation focused our attention on "Imagine Changed Lives". The graphic on the Imagine Challenge letter showed a line of all different types of people with the thinking cloud above them...what were you thinking or praying about? Has your life or someone you know's life changed? Pastor Scott's November sermons walked us through Imagine Changed Lives through Vision, Ownership, Sacrifice and Commitment. We as a Body of Christ are asked once a year to commit or pledge our financial resources to our Heavenly Father and His mission in our World. Through November 20th, we have received 77 commitment cards with total pledges of \$476,000 with \$310,000 for our operations and \$152,000 for our new building and \$14,000 for other ministries.

Commitment to	Amt Pledged	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 270,000	57%
Facility	\$ 40,000	8%
Capital Fund	\$ 152,000	32%
Other	\$ 14,000	3%
Total	\$ 476,000	100%

Our mission here is all about changing lives, that we can agree on. What's also true is that all of us are on our own individual journey, seeking, learning and growing in our faith, and that shows in what we do and how we respond to sharing back in response to God's blessings. Our lives are changing as members of Joy! and it's through our support to the many ministries that exist here that we personally experience those challenges to grow and also provide opportunities to others to also grow. No matter where you're at on your journey, there's a place to be or a community to be with here at Joy! Our faithful support in giving time and talent along with our financial response is what makes these ministries possible.

As the year has nearly gone by, it's important to know that there is still time to consider alternative gifts, should that be an option for anyone, such as gifts of stock or other appreciated securities. As long as the gift is completed by year end, it will count as a gift for 2011. Of course, tax savings are not the reason to give, however, if it makes more sense to consider alternative gifts, please consider the possibilities.

Pastor Scott has encouraged us to pray about our response and ask for God's presence in our lives not only during one time of the year, but everyday as we give thanks for the gift of his Son, our Savior.

Thank you to all of the families and members that have turned in their commitment cards. If you haven't had the time or ability to turn in your commitment cards you are invited to still do so. We are praying and would love to see all families turn a commitment card before the end of December. Commitment cards are available at the Information Desk in the lobby and may be turned into the Ushers during the offering or may be mailed to Joy! office. God is Good!

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettias decorating our worship space...

In Memory of..

Paul and Dori Murphy, and Betty, Buzz, and Fran Morrical from Randy and Rhonda Murphy

Those we have lost in the Hazel and Kwiatkowski Families from George and Susan Kwiatkowski

James J. Taylor, Sr from Lois and Jim Taylor Jr, and Kim, Bill, Heather, and Bill Putnam

Taylor Stinchcomb and Michael Gester from Tracy Reaves

Jeanne & Robert Schultheis from Jill Jackson

Becky, Kevin, and Gil Koehler, father from Gary Koehler

My brother Tom Schilling and parents Gus & Winnie Schilling from Jean Hackbert

Our fathers, Keith Carlton and Ted Valenta from Steve & Becky Valenta

Don Radke, father of Donna Suchsland, who passed away in Oct-11 from The Suchsland Family

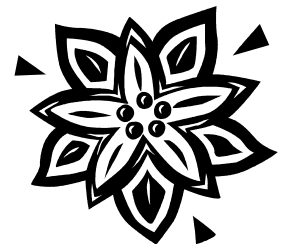
In Honor of...

The Hazel and Kwiatkowski Families from George and Susan Kwiatkowski

Baby Jesus being born from Pat DeBrau

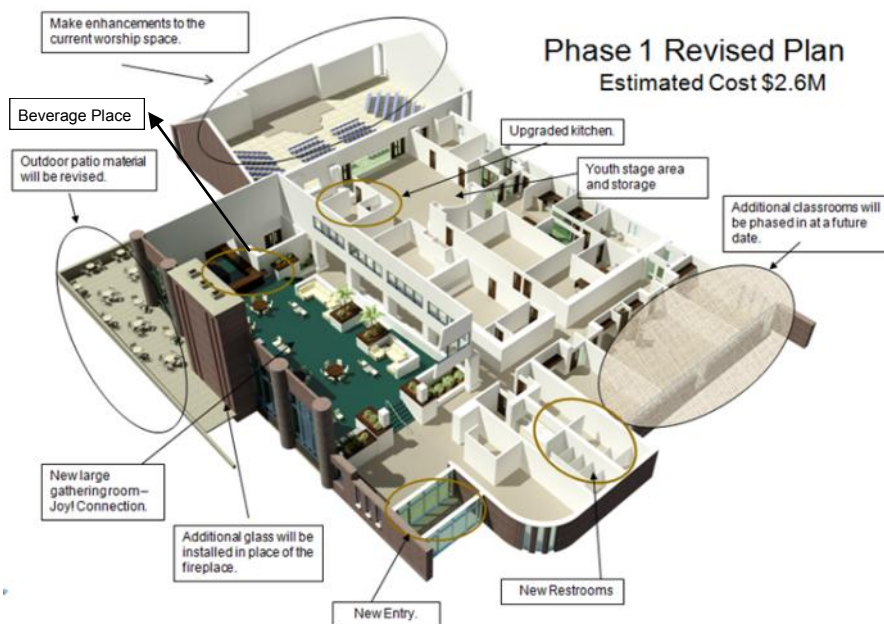
Jesus Birthday! From The Reiling Family

My loving parents from Betsy Wehde



Our team is blessed to give you a facility improvement update. On Nov. 6, the congregation approved the revised Phase 1 Plan at an estimated (bid based) cost of \$2.6 million which will achieve most of Joy!’s priorities. Included in the plan are:

- Worship space improvements – improved sound, lighting, modifications to stage and backdrop
- Fellowship/Hospitality - adding a large/open (18 ft. ceiling) flexible gathering area (Joy! Connection) with wall of glass, beverage place
- Building Appearance/Character – new entry, new restrooms, remodeled offices and new configuration, new HVAC units and sprinklers throughout, updated kitchen
- Youth Space – a new stage (with sound/lighting) with youth storage



Our general contractor and architect are moving the project forward and noticeable changes can be seen as you walk outside: new fire hydrant, Halifax Rd. tie in, utility services relocated and installed, pond/water run-off area enlarged and grasses planted, excavation started, and many behind-the-scenes detailed bid discussion with subcontractors. There are two outstanding actions which are critical for us to continue – MIF (Mission Investment Fund) loan approval and village permitting. Although we have long ago submitted all documentation and answers to the Village and we have been told there are no issues with our plan, the Village has not granted our final permit. We have been expecting this for several weeks, and continue to pursue approval so as not to impact our timeline.

Additional progress:

Existing Sanctuary bid/discussions with Church Solutions Group on stage design, electrical layout for sound, lighting Alignment: on design revisions as more details evolve. What items might be added back (example – skylights); keyless entry; staff requests for room usage

Communications – postings to staff, still photos and videography taking place to record progress, website postings. We will post a timeline in the lobby after our permit is received, Aligning with moving team in preparation for Jan. Marcus Cinema services

General Timeline:

Village permit approved	Dec. 2011
Contract with Sanctuary Designers	Dec. 2011
Interior modifications begin	Jan. 2012
Excavation	April 2012
Most of Building Complete	Nov. 2012

As always, please pray for God’s guidance and discernment, that we may see how God would have us fit into **HIS** plan. And most of all, we pray for unity and love as one body in Christ as we continue on our journey to make a difference and change lives for Christ.

- *Building Improvement Team*