



# Preserving the Past Embracing the Future Centered in Christ

Dear Church Family,

These are exciting times as we embark on a two-year celebration of God's many blessings, culminating with the commemoration of our congregation's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. Our theme for this celebration is ***Preserving the Past. Embracing the Future. Centered in Christ.***

**Preserving the Past:** Significant anniversaries present the opportunity to celebrate the past and to tell the story to the next generation. We will be rejoicing in God's leading and guiding since our humble beginnings 175 years ago, but we will also be preserving our past in a real and tangible way. At the Annual Meeting, the congregation overwhelmingly approved a project that would preserve the past for generations to come: the removal of the bell from the chapel and the construction of a bell tower by the church so that the bell can ring out calling people to worship. The voters also approved the rehabilitation of the chapel because of its historical significance for our congregation, area Lutheran churches, and our community. The logo for our celebration focuses on preserving the past. Designed by Sarah (Loesch) Ford, the chapel tower summarizes both aspects of this project: construction of the bell tower and rehabilitation of the chapel.

**Embracing the Future:** By God's design, the church is not a museum, but is living and growing, fed and nourished by God's Word and sacraments. We fail in our calling as a Church if all we do is look back without considering the opportunities that God places before us to reach out with the precious Gospel and to serve and love others in Christ's name. Thus, as we celebrate, we embrace the future. We face the future confidently knowing that our Lord who has sustained this congregation for 175 years will continue to bless us in years to come. Already in 2022, we have expanded our youth ministry to include a new elementary group, Kids for Christ. In our early childhood ministry, we are providing more scholarships so that we can serve more children and their families. Repayment of the Dora Fischer loan now gives us the opportunity to support more missions, both locally and globally. The future is unknown and that often leads to fear and anxiety. But we face the future with certainty, confident that the Lord's hand is leading us and His love supporting us.

**Centered in Christ:** Christ is the ultimate cause for our celebration. Not even the gates of hell can prevail against the Church founded on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. His Word is our great heritage. Thus, we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on His cross and empty tomb. In a world that tempts us to ignore and water down the Word, we commit ourselves to the preaching and teaching of God's Word in its truth and purity, firmly believing that the Gospel alone is the power of God for salvation. Christ alone is our cornerstone on which we build!

I invite you to join us in this two-year celebration of God's grace. 2023 will feature many special services and events which I hope you will attend. Please continue to pray for our congregation, thanking God for His many mercies in the past and for His guidance for the future. I also encourage you to review these materials about our two-year capital campaign to preserve our past and prayerfully consider how to use your time, treasure, and talent to support this endeavor. As we preserve the past and embrace the future, may we always be Christ-centered and Gospel-focused!

## Friends of Clifty Church Leadership Team

Jim Brock, Chair  
Marybeth Glick  
Niki Otte  
Warren Scheidt  
Jason Schroer

## Planning Committee

Jackie Arnholt, Secretary  
Jim Brock  
Phil Burbrink  
Marybeth Glick  
Kate Oliver  
Warren Scheidt, Chair

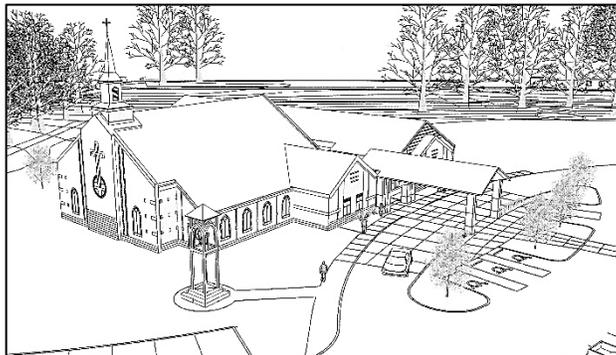
In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Bauman*

# Who is a “Friend of Clifty Church”?

## You are!

This campaign is different than any of our previous campaigns. It is true, as in the past, we are asking you to prayerfully consider financially supporting this project so that our church bell can once again call people to worship in addition to rehabilitating the chapel for its historical significance. However, the enclosed pledge card not only gives you the opportunity to **financially support** this project, but also to **volunteer**, using your time and talent to assist with the rehabilitation work at the chapel. Additionally, the pledge card gives you the opportunity to share **names and addresses** of people you know who would be interested in financially supporting this project. This could include relatives, former members, families whose children attended our early childhood ministry, members of area Lutheran congregations, and those in the community that have an interest in historic preservation.



*Architect's rendering of the church with bell tower*

When you serve in one or more of these ways, you are a Friend of Clifty Church! When non-members support this project, they are also Friends of Clifty Church! As a congregation, our goal is that we would enthusiastically support this project and invite others to do the same. The total cost is \$600,000, however this amount can be reduced significantly with volunteers doing much of the rehabilitation work at the chapel.

We pray that you are as enthusiastic about being a “Friend of Clifty Church” as we are. Please complete the enclosed pledge card and bring it with you to worship on **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. If you cannot attend worship that day, please turn in your pledge card on a previous Sunday, mail it in, or drop it off at the church.

If you have any questions, please contact us. May God richly bless our congregation as we are **preserving our past, embracing our future, and centered in Christ!**

Friends of Clifty Church Leadership Team

## Upcoming Events

**February 17:** Bell extracted from chapel bell tower and placed on display in the gathering space.

**February 25-27:** Youth events that will give our children and youth the opportunity to see and learn about the Chapel. The Jr. and Sr. High youth will have a lock-in on February 25-26 that includes a “scavenger hunt” in the Chapel. Our newly formed Kids for Christ (elementary youth) *and their parents* will also participate in a chapel “scavenger hunt” on Sunday, February 27.

**February 27:** Commitment Sunday. Pledges will be offered during the Sunday services. The chapel will be open for those who desire to see the interior.

**March:** Community campaign begins with materials mailed to names submitted by church members.

**April:** Announcement of amount pledged from congregation and community campaign.

**Summer 2022:** Rehabilitation work begins at the chapel.

**Fall 2022 (tentative):** Dedication of bell tower

**2023 (tentative):** Completion of chapel restoration

## Mission Made Possible!

Since the completion of our church building in 2009, we have remained focused on repaying the Dora Fischer loan, knowing that one of the blessings of full repayment would give us the opportunity to increase our mission support. Thanks to your generosity, the Fischer loan has been repaid and more than \$189,000 has been contributed to this project.

At the January Council meeting, your church council authorized the Board of Stewardship to support a **Mission of the Month**. Church members will recommend the Mission of the Month to the Board of Stewardship who will then determine the missions we will support with Council approval. Each Mission of the Month will receive \$1,000, the monthly budgeted amount from the general fund for Dora Fischer loan repayment. The Mission of the Month will also be highlighted in the church newsletter.

Please submit any suggestions for the Mission of the Month to a member of the Board of Stewardship, Carolyn Wilkerson, Rob Baltus, or Adam Scheidt. The deadline for submissions is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is the Master Plan?***

In 2005, the congregation approved a three phase Thirty Year Master Plan that included the construction of a new church, the addition of an education center to the new church, and cemetery expansion. The Master Plan integrated the continuance of the chapel standing because of its historical significance. It also included the construction of a bell tower and a storage building adjacent to the church. Thus far, the construction of the church and cemetery expansion have been concluded. Our focus is now on full completion of the Master Plan.

## ***Why are we undertaking this project before the education center expansion?***

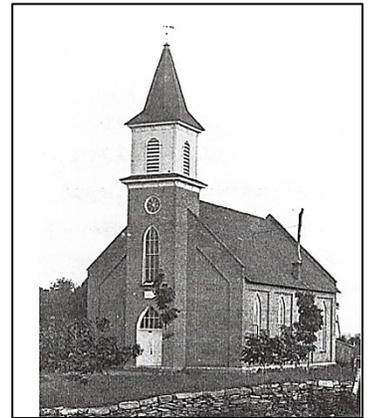
The Planning Committee determined that if the chapel is to be rehabilitated, the time to act is now! Preservation cannot wait until after the education center is constructed due to significant water damage in the bell tower. The bell needs to be removed and the tower sealed. The retaining wall around the chapel must also be addressed soon, regardless of whether the chapel is restored. This project enables us to attend to these immediate needs.

## ***Why are we preserving only the exterior of the chapel?***

The interior of the chapel was remodeled many times throughout its history so that no interior fixture or furnishing is original to the building. We will preserve the stained glass windows, the pulpit, font, woodcuts, and cross for future use in our church.

## ***What work will be done at the chapel?***

There are three goals in the chapel project: Preserving the chapel for its historic significance, making the chapel as maintenance free as possible, and stewarding the space inside the chapel to support our congregation's mission and ministry. To achieve these goals the 1954 narthex addition will be removed from the chapel. This will eliminate the ongoing cause of leaks and water damage while restoring the original façade of the chapel. The basement, another source of moisture, will be filled and a new concrete floor will be poured. New custom windows and commercial gutters will be installed. The bell tower and other wooden surfaces will be repainted with a longer life ceramic-based paint. The interior of the chapel will be utilized for storage thus eliminating the need for the construction of a storage facility near the church.



*Chapel circa 1900. Our plan is to remove the 1954 narthex restoring the original façade as pictured here.*

## ***How will we preserve the history of our congregation and the chapel through this project?***



*Example of historical markers that will be placed along the chapel walkway.*

The Friends of Clifty Church Leadership Team is working with a landscaper to create a self-guided outdoor museum around the chapel. This will include a new sidewalk that wraps around the west and north sides of the chapel ending at the cemetery. Along the path, there will be signage that tells the story of our congregation through words and historical pictures. The removal of the shrubbery will expose the cornerstone along with its German inscription. The removal of the 1950s narthex addition will uncover the original dedication stone, located above the front entrance, also written in German.

## ***When and how will the bell ring once the bell tower is complete?***

The bell tower is designed so that the bell will swing (rather than be struck). It will be rung remotely from the church. The bell tower design exposes the bell so that attendees can see the bell ring. In addition to ringing the bell at the beginning of the service, the bell will also toll during the praying of the Lord's Prayer and at funeral processions from the church to the cemetery. We plan to reinstate the tradition of the bell not only marking the beginning of worship but also as a call to worship. Thus, the bell will ring for one minute in length, fifteen minutes before each service. This will give worshippers the opportunity to both hear and see the bell as they enter for worship.

## ***What is the cost of this project?***

The cost of the project is **\$600,000**, of which \$189,000 has been contributed. Our goal is to reduce the total cost through volunteers offering their time and talent.

***I can't give a large one-time gift, but I want to financially support this project. What can I do?***

Pledges can be given as a one-time gift or spread out over 24 months. A monthly pledge can make a significant impact. For example, \$25 per month for 24 months is a \$600 pledge. \$50 per month for 24 months is a \$1,200 pledge. Pledges of any amount are greatly appreciated and will help us reach our goal!

***I have already contributed to this project. Should I include my previous gift in my pledge?***

We are tremendously blessed with the outpouring of support for this project. If you have already contributed financially to this project, we thank you for your gift. Through this pledging process, we will know the total amount of funds available in addition to what has already been received. Thus, we would kindly ask that you not include any previous gifts and donations in your pledge.

***What about the education center?***

The Planning Committee continues to work on space and schematic designs for the education center, which is the final phase of the Thirty Year Master Plan. The goal is to have a presentation ready for the November 2022 Annual Meeting.

***I have questions. Who should I contact?***

The Friends of Clifty Church Leadership Team and Planning Committee members are listed on the first page. Please contact them with any questions.

## Historical Timeline

### St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clifty and vicinity of Columbus, Indiana

*Official name from Article One of our Church Constitution*

**1848** St. Paul founded with Rev. Carl Frinke of St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek serving as the first pastor.

**1852** The congregation purchased fourteen acres for \$100. A log church and a log cabin parsonage were constructed. Rev. J. Rauschert was called as the first resident pastor.

**1858** A frame church was erected and dedicated.

**1887** Construction began on a brick church (the chapel) with dedication in 1888.

**1928** Stained glass windows installed in the chapel, in commemoration of the congregation's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**1954** A new entrance and cloakroom were added to the chapel.

**2009** Dedication of the present worship facility.



*Chapel altar, pulpit, and baptismal font with the pulpit directly above the altar.*

**Commitment Sunday is February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
*Thank you for your prayers and support!*