

Readiness Assessment Update

Church Community Builder

on behalf of

Seth Flick

Thu 3/30/2023 2:21 PM

To: Stephanie Cutler <stephanie.cutler@drlc.org>

Hello DR Friends and Family!

Pastor Seth here. I hope and pray this Lenten season finds you focused solely on Jesus and His work for you and your family!

Along the lines of seeing Jesus' work amongst families, we had the opportunity last night to share a meal, pray, and hear about the absolutely Gospel-centered, amazing ministry in which Jesus has allowed DR families to participate. **The school's ministry impact was shared. The church's ministry impact was shared. We celebrated Jesus and all that He has done.** It's humbling to see the impact and share stories of the fruits of that ministry as well as the unprecedented growth that DR has experienced in the last year! **You can find the presentation from last night with many of the numerical figures that are influencing our next step in our strategic mission at www.drlc.org/vision.**

I just wanted to write a note to you today about the progress and next step of our potential vision of expanding DR's ministry, by God's grace. As you know, DR brought a third-party group called Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Ministry Solutions to help us objectively assess if we were ready to participate in expanding ministry by building a new Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), bringing water to campus and renovating the spaces vacated by the ECDC. This company performs assessments across the country for churches and schools just like ours. Sometimes, they recommend that a church and school should not build, because, in their findings, the project doesn't align with the church/school's mission. Sometimes, they recommend that a church/school needs to "pump the brakes" on a project and spend more time in prayer and mission alignment before they move forward with a building project. Other times, LCEF endorses that a group should move forward with their plan to expand mission impact by means of a building project.

At a specially called Board of Directors meeting on Monday, March 27th, LCEF officially recommended that we should move forward with our project! There are many points where LCEF went out of their way to highlight the unity that they see in our campus' mission-mindedness. For this, I humbly ask that you take a moment to praise Jesus! Not merely for the endorsement, but, just as importantly, we praise Jesus for the significant strides we as a Christ-centered community have taken in prayer and humility to get to a place where we are being recognized for our unity in Jesus! **You can view LCEF's presentation at www.drlc.org/vision** as well which will provide you with all the details you may be interested to read upon which they based their endorsement.

At that same meeting, the Board of Directors officially adopted the resolution which will be provided as the sole special agenda item for our **specially-called Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 16 at 11:45am in the Sanctuary**. The exact wording for your prayerful consideration will be the following:

"Based on the results of the Readiness Assessment, the Board of Directors recommends to the voters' assembly of Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church that they approve the development and construction of an Early Childhood Development Center and the immediate initiation of a capital campaign."

So what will be our immediate next steps?

1. **Attend the next prayer meeting** which will be held in the Media Center this Sunday, April 2nd following our 9:15am service.
2. **Continue to pray** for this entire process as well as prayers for peace, unity of Christ's people, and discernment for all of DR's ministry moving forward.
3. **Attend the Voters' Meeting** on April 16 at 11:45am in the Sanctuary. If you are a voting member, prayerfully consider and cast your vote on the agenda item above regarding the potential for campus expansion. Remember, even though anyone is invited to attend, only those officially accepted as voting members can actually vote. If you have a question about whether you are an official voting member, please contact the church office to inquire.

Important side note: **If you've been publicly welcomed to our congregation as a member, this does not mean you're automatically a voting member, but you can become one prior to the vote as long as you meet this criterion** of being a member of the church who is over the age of 18, who has filled out

the appropriate paperwork (which will be available directly before the Voters' Meeting), and be accepted as a voting member before the official action where you can vote. If you're able to do the notes above, you should be able to cast your vote that day! I know that's pretty wordy, but I would love to ensure clarity and prepare you for what may be necessary on that day.

Whew! God certainly has a lot coming our way: Palm Sunday, prayer, Holy Week, Easter, and this Voters' Meeting! When you get an opportunity, find a Board member, faculty member, or Church Ministry Director - they have been working tirelessly to create opportunities in ministry for Christ's kingdom and your family to participate - and thank Jesus for what they're doing!

God's peace in Jesus as we walk this Lenten journey together as a family under the cross and through the empty tomb!

Pastor Seth

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