

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Kitchen Renovations in 2007

by Bill Pankow

On February 13th, 2007, at a meeting of the Nolte Estate Committee, a discussion took place to research a project to renovate/remodel the kitchen. Bill Pankow said he would look into this matter. It was suggested to obtain estimates as to what the costs would be. After discussing a new kitchen with several members of the congregation, and getting their input as to what the desires and future needs would be, Bill Pankow met with representatives from both Slone Refrigeration and Lute Supply on March 22nd, 2007. The meeting lasted two hours and took place in the church kitchen. The desires and future needs were conveyed to them. The traffic flow of casserole dishes, beverages, dirty plates, garbage, etc. was discussed, and measurements were taken. The needs for a possible future pre-school were discussed as well. As it turned out, Slone Refrigeration supplied all the sinks and appliances, and Lute Supply provided the cabinets and countertops. With all this information, the representatives set out to design a new kitchen for St. Paul's. In the next couple months, plans and costs were presented and details were worked out. The Nolte Estate Committee, during a meeting on June 20th, agreed to recommend the project to the next Church Council meeting. The plans and costs, with a budget of \$27,000, were presented to the Church Council on July 5th and to the Voters meeting on July 12th. The voters approved the kitchen with a budget of \$27,000. Prior to the kitchen work getting started, five ladies removed all the supplies, dishes, and articles from the cabinets and drawers and placed them into temporary storage. They were: Linda Lange, Beverly McKenzie, Gloria Pankow, Mary Robinson and Lucy Ward. Demolition of the existing kitchen was started on July 27th, 2007. Bill and Alf Lange started with the removal of the old cabinets and countertops, and it was found that the cabinets were dated and signed by Ross Simpson (a member) and Pastor Meyer in 1970. It is believed, because of this information, that the existing kitchen was redone in 1970, thirty-seven years earlier. After 37 years of use, it was expected to find reasons of a need to re-new, and we were not disappointed. A waste line was nearly plugged off, and electrical issues were found.

The demolition consisted of the removal of all appliances, counters, cabinets, sinks, plumbing, floor tile, ceiling tile, lights and most all the electrical. The work was slow, dirty, noisy, tedious, and difficult at times. In reality, the kitchen was stripped clean, right down to the concrete walls. The waste line had to be exposed, which went into the wall behind the new kitchen stove, and is also the location of the vent line. This was cemented into the wall and the concrete had to be hand chiseled out to expose the lines. Then this waste/vent line had to be cut to convert it from one waste line into making it two waste lines. Mary Robinson and Karen Etter spent over 2 hours with a hack saw blade, sitting on the floor, taking turns to hand cut a section of line out to facilitate this change. There was no room in the small recessed opening to use a power tool to make it easier and they only could move the saw blade a short distance back and forth. This change was necessary to accommodate a new water cooler and icemaker machine drain line. This drain line needed to be separate from the main drain lines from the sinks. We found with the previous kitchen, that the drinking fountain drain connected into the waste line directly opposite the drain from the sinks and dishwasher. When the dishwasher pump would kick in, it would shoot wastewater straight through the connection and into the drinking fountain line, sending this water into the fountain bowl. This would make a disgusting mess and is the reason the hallway drinking fountain was removed a few years earlier. The new drain line has the drinking fountain waste line above the line coming from the sinks. The old waste line was also nearly level which allowed solids to accumulate and not be flushed out. It was a black, slimy mess to remove it. The new waste line has a minimum slope of

¼ inch per foot to allow for proper drainage. In the process of exposing the drain and vent line within the wall, it was found that an electrical line was installed inside an abandoned water line. The old water line was used as the conduit to pass the wires through it. This has been removed. So in the process of re-doing the kitchen, the waste line problems were corrected and a new water cooler was installed in the hallway. Do to the cost of the water cooler and its' installation, \$500.00 was added to the kitchen budget bringing it to \$27,500. It was decided to do this during a Voters meeting because the water cooler was not actually a part of the kitchen renovation. It made sense at the time of the work being done to include this as part of the overall project, but the cost should have come from the building and maintenance budget as it was replacing a drinking fountain that was removed earlier. Those working on the kitchen were concerned that the added expense of the cooler would cause the kitchen budget to be depleted before the work was done.

The old kitchen floor of vinal asphalt tile squares needed to be removed as well. A number of volunteers worked for a couple hours with chisels and putty knives, but the work was slow going. Alf suggested we obtain a machine to do this from the tool rental store. With a call to Wagner Rental & Supply, we learned that they could obtain one for us from their sister store in Portsmouth, Ohio. That following Saturday, Mary Robinson removed the remaining floor tile, single-handed, in just 2 hours with this machine. The Wagner Rental & Supply store became a huge help in renting the right equipment to do several jobs. The biggest and most difficult job was to drill through the concrete walls. An additional power panel was needed to provide service to the new commercial dishwasher. It required a 70-amp feed and the existing kitchen panel would not accommodate this extra load. It was decided to run a 100-amp service from the furnace room main breaker panel to an additional service box in the kitchen. It required a 1¼-inch conduit to be run through three concrete walls. The kitchen wall was 9 inches thick and the two walls closest to the furnace room were both 13 inches thick. These two walls provide a support for the bell tower. A hammer drill with a 2-inch bit was rented and the grueling work started. Standing on a stepladder and drilling through 57-year-old concrete near the ceiling with this heavy machine was soon tiring. From the tip of the drill bit to the end of the drill was about three feet long. Alf and Bill took turns and broke through the last wall with just minutes to go in order to get the machine back to the rental store before they closed for the day. Mary, who was working outside raking leaves with Carol Bruce, said she could hear the noise of the hammer drill clear out there.

From when the demolition work began in July, until into December when the kitchen became "operational", several members and even two non-members worked many hours in doing the needed work. Those that worked on the kitchen project, in addition to those already mentioned above, include: Carol and Dave Bruce, Sharon and Roger Haines, Blake Lange, Mike Quade, Pastor Mark Kloha, Dave Boldt, Larry Hall Jr. and Nellis Haller, as the church custodian, who continually had dust and dirt throughout the facility to clean up. Alf Lange and Bill Pankow were the project leaders. Alf focused his attention on electrical needs and Bill on the plumbing. All the above volunteers made it possible to do this project. They waited on deliveries, ran errands, scraped and painted, installed plumbing and conduit, pulled wires, handed a tool to someone on a ladder, cleaned and cleaned some more, etc. Everyone worked together well in this effort, thereby saving the congregation thousands of dollars in contracted labor costs. Many thanks go to those who came out to help in this effort. The only labor expenses we had were to have the cabinets and countertops installed at a cost of \$900.00, also an electrician to make the tie-in of the new electrical line into the main breaker panel in the furnace room at a cost of \$480.00 (including his materials) and the new floor cost \$463.75 which was materials and labor. With these three expenses, the cost of the appliances, countertops, cabinets, and hundreds of miscellaneous electrical and plumbing fittings and materials when all is added up, the total cost of the entire project was \$28,106.35. This was \$606.35 over the budgeted amount and as of this writing. There are still a few small incidentals remaining to be addressed. Prior to the start of this project, we had no idea that we would need the electrical upgrade. Also we had \$218.91 tool rental fees for specialty tools that were needed to remove floor tile and drill through the hardened concrete walls, and \$50.00 was spent to have all the old waste

and construction materials hauled to the landfill.

The Annual Thanksgiving Pot Bless Dinner (usually held after the worship service on the 2nd Sunday of November) was cancelled because the kitchen wasn't completed. The first use of the kitchen was on December 9th when the local Thrivent Chapter had their annual Christmas Dinner. The Sunday School used the kitchen on December 23rd after the 10:45am Sunday Worship Service to have a "Happy Birthday Jesus Party". While the kitchen is "operational", a number of small items still need to be addressed. While taking a break from all the work that has been done, it was decided to wait until after the Christmas Holidays and the 1st of the New Year (2008) to finish these items. The idea was made by Alf Lange to enclose a "Time Capsule" within the kitchen. Whenever a new kitchen is done again, or if the countertops need replacing, someone will find the time capsule. No fair looking or peeking before that time. Enclosed in the capsule you will find a Church Directory from 1991, the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul's Congregation. You'll also find some letters/notes from some of the youth of the congregation, a movie ticket stub from one of the local theatres showing a current movie playing, several pictures showing the previous kitchen and also the work being done on this remodeling project, along with other pictures. There is a story about the 1935 Chevrolet that the congregation received from the Nolte Estate. This story is, at the time of the kitchen renovation, posted on the church website at .

Those that worked on the kitchen, hope that the kitchen will serve the congregation well for many years to come. Hopefully we can make it last even more that the previous kitchen of 37 years. Let's go for 50 years! So in the year of 2057, treat yourself with a new kitchen. With the new capabilities of this kitchen, many appliances are of a commercial quality and design, we the workers of this project hope that the Congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will use this kitchen to God's glory. Take care of it, it is part of Gods' house, it belongs to Him. We are just the caretakers. Maybe your group, board, or organization can use this facility to raise money for a mission project, or some purpose here at church. We built it with the intentions of it being put to good and frequent use. It is up to the congregation now to use it. May God bless this new kitchen and that for which it is used.

After the February 3rd 2008, 10:45am Worship Service, Pastor Mark Kloha invited the Congregation downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to dedicate the new kitchen. Most members from the service came down to participate in the brief service. Following the dedication, Mary Robinson presented a plaque to Alf and Bill expressing the thanks of the congregation for the work that they had done. The plaque will be installed in the kitchen. Similar plaques were also given to both Alf and Bill. Carol Bruce, Sharon Haines, Nellis Haller, and Doll Martin also spoke, putting on individual humorous skits regarding the kitchen project. Cake and punch were served. A freewill offering was taken at this time to help the Junior Youth Group with finances so they can attend a District Youth Gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio.