

Update 7-1-2013

June 30, 2013

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation Approves Plan to Re-develop Its Woodmont Triangle Property

At a special congregation meeting on June 30, 2013, members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bethesda-Chevy Chase voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a county approved rezoning plan and re-develop its property in the Woodmont Triangle of Bethesda. An additional fall 2013 vote by the Congregation will determine the size and scope of the church facility. Current schedule calls for 4Q14 construction start with both church and residential occupancy in 4Q16.

The approved plan for the church property at 8011 & 8015 Old Georgetown Road includes:

- A new church facility with child care and community space built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications
- 90 market rate condos and 17 MPDU residential units
- 240 underground parking spaces
- Renewed landscaping and pedestrian paths

Christ Lutheran first filed a PD44 rezoning application in November 2006. After a number of positive decisions, as well as delays, that application was approved by the Montgomery County Council by a 7-2 vote on October 26, 2010. A series of county and state appeals brought against that county decision by one neighbor were dismissed but that delayed the church's action until 1Q13.

Congregation President George Wenchel said *"this is an important decision for both our church and the community for Christ Lutheran to continue to remain and thrive in Bethesda. We have been a vital part of the community for 80 years in 4 different facilities and we expect our next facility to help us serve many future generations."*

Christ Lutheran has been a Bethesda community mainstay since it first met at the old Hiser Theatre (now the Bethesda Hyatt) on December 2, 1934. It has owned the 2 acre property at mainly at 8011 and 8015 Old Georgetown Road at Glenbrook since 1937. During that time they have worshipped and provided community space in four different facilities. The church has opened its doors to help found or welcome Bethesda Cares, The Ivymount School, Guiding Star Child Development Center, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist, Iglesia Asambleas and Iglesia Evangelica Principe de Paz congregations, MoCo Polling place and dozens of other needed community services. This newest LEED facility is intended to meet both the worship needs of the congregation and the growing needs of the diverse Bethesda population. Christ Lutheran plans to celebrate both its 80th anniversary in Bethesda and ground breaking for new facilities in December 2014.

Christ Lutheran's Development Partners and Consultants

- Community Counseling Service Co., LLC (Strategic consulting)
- Councilor, Buchanan and Mitchell (Auditors)
- Graceful Growing Together, Inc.
- Guiding Star Child Development Center, Inc.
- Lemley and Associates (Owner's representation)
- Lenhart Traffic Consulting
- Linowes and Blocher (Land use counsel)
- Loiederman Soltesz Engineering
- MTFA Architecture
- Perrine Planning and Zoning
- The NonProfitCenters Network (Market assessment)
- Thrivent Federal Credit Union