

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church renovation nears completion

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## See the CloseUp section inside

VALDERS — Just in time for Christmas, work is wrapping up on Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church's new addition.

The 100-year-old structure at 11303 Wehausen Road has been in renovation mode since Easter. The \$720,000 project will provide improved access for the disabled and additional activity space with a new and expanded entryway, elevator and bathrooms.

The 4,300-square-foot addition nearly doubles space in the historic facili-

ty, said Earl Glaeser, expansion committee chairman. At 71, he is a lifelong member of the congregation which traces back more than 150 years and currently has about 250 members.

Glaeser helped as the building's original cornerstone, dated October 1910, was removed and the time capsule opened to reveal newspaper articles and a small catechism printed in German. The old cornerstone was re-laid with a

fresh 2009 cornerstone and time capsule at the new northeast corner of the addition, he said. The contents of the 1910 capsule will be displayed in a memorabilia cabinet.

That link to history and sense of community are strong threads that run throughout the project, Glaeser said. The congregational involvement was deep. "We had five different committees and as many as a dozen families on each committee," he said.

The work itself also ties old to new. The elegant

➤ See CHURCH, A-5



The renovation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Valders, including a new and expanded entryway, is finishing up in time for the Christmas holidays. Carole Curtis/HTR correspondent

## CHURCH

From A-1

brickwork of the new addition echoes the old and original stained glass windows in the narthex, a gift from the Nagel family, which have been worked into the high point of the church.

"When you walk into the church, the first thing you see is that big stained glass window," Glaeser said. "It's our history, and that builds enthusiasm for what's in our past while looking forward into our future."

The project included new restrooms on the lower level, as well as reworking the hallway and dining area and laying new carpeting throughout the church. An elevator rises to the main floor, where another restroom has been added. The overall design allows for ample fellowship areas on both levels and bathes both levels in light and views from the shared north windows.

The project has been on

the drawing board for a long time, Glaeser said.

"We've been planning on this for many years and the congregation felt, if we are going to do it, we needed to get it done now," he explained, noting a new pastor, the economy's effect on contractors, and moderated material prices all played into the 2009 decision.

The congregation chose Beinners-Schober Associates of Green Bay as architects and selected Quasius Construction of Sheboygan as contractor.

"I think we had the best masons and carpenters possible for the job," Glaeser said. "I think they did a fantastic job."

The church's new east entrance was completed in time for Thanksgiving services. Except for signage, the project should be completed during the second week of December.

An official dedication celebration is planned Jan. 24.

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