

## Shared Christian Faith Brings Blessings to School

Tough times often bring out the best in people when neighbors are faced with hard decisions.



The Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, Des Moines Iowa, congregation is remodeling its existing church to add a new wing for classrooms, offices, and an elevator for access. During a routine conversation with the contracting company's owner, Vernon Stodden, Pastor Kendall Meyer asked if winter was a slow time for his company. He responded that it is usually so slow the owners take part of the crew on a mission trip to Mexico to build or repair churches. The materials are provided locally and they simply provide the transportation and labor. Because of the

slow economy this year, the company's owners decided to consider the Mt. Olive project as their "mission trip" and charge only for the material and minimal labor.

"Of course, I thanked him for that and he said that although he and his sons belong to a different denomination, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and they were glad to help with the school," Meyer said.

As the congregation considered whether to add brick to one side of the new addition, which would blend with the existing structure, based on some of our other extra costs of construction, the contractor solved its concern.

"He then told me that he and his sons had talked it over and decided to donate the \$7,000 worth of material and considered it 'sowing seed.' Of course, I thanked him profusely... God is Good and does provide!"

LCEF is assisting the congregation with a construction loan. Members also participated in a CFS capital stewardship campaign in 2008 and reported a 14% increase in giving. This congregation is indeed blessed with giving neighbors and members!