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The Virginia

LUTHERAN

Salem, Mt. Sidney, dedicates Imagine Center



Mt. Sidney Imagine Center dedicated in June.

A 12,000-square-foot Imagine Center, a \$1.3 million, three-story wing, has been dedicated at Salem, Mt. Sidney. The building contains a gathering area, kitchen, restrooms and a main hall with a stage.

The dedication service on June 26 came 51 years after the last dedication of a new building wing and 51 weeks after the ground-breaking, according to Pastor Christopher Carr. Bishop Jim Mauney presided over the

communion service. The congregation processed from the church to the red brick arches of the center for a ribbon-cutting by Bishop Mauney, Pastor Carr and Bill Converse, council president.

The structure has a two-story main hall. The building, 60 feet wide by 120 feet long, has a geothermal heating and cooling system. The building was set apart for God's mission and ministry in the congregation and the community.

The bishop spoke of the Trinitarian nature of the congregation's buildings. First was the sanctuary for worship, next came a Sunday School addition for teaching the faith and now comes a mission center for hospitality, fellowship, activity and outreach.

Carr asked, "Who could have imagined such a center? God imagined and God has imagined uses for our new facility of which we've not yet dreamed."

Charles Dennison II, Building Committee chairman, acknowledged the work of Dale Cupp, architect, and Harman Construction, the contractor. An engraved handsaw was presented to Dennison. A commemorative refrigerator magnet, bearing the date and pictures of the new building, was presented to each of the 236 people attending the service.

During construction last winter, winds of up to 70 miles per hour blew 10 roof trusses down to the cement floor like a pile of giant matchsticks. Construction workers scrambled to safety.