



Divine Savior Church

Worship • Connect • Serve

English Service Open Forum – April 28, 2019

Proposal for Changing *More* Lives with Jesus

5 Causes For Action (The WHY)

1. The 80% rule. When a room reaches 70-80% of its *seating* capacity, it has reached its *comfort* capacity. This means first-time guests hesitate entering; they may not want to come back; and regular attenders are reluctant to invite people. Our worship attendance average is currently over 200 per Sunday which means we are already *over* 80% full on a regular basis (with all 240 chairs and limited standing room in the back).
2. Divine Savior Academy is our church's primary mission field. One of the best ways to connect more DSA families to the life of our Divine Savior Church family is to have DSA kids sing in worship more. This is problematic with the status quo because a) some DSA families don't bring their kids to sing because they know there isn't enough room for them to attend comfortably; b) some DSC families don't attend Sundays when they know kids are singing because they want to free up potential seats for DSA families.
3. Fellowship attrition – The opportunity to connect with first time guests is being lost. The distance of the high school commons and its directional placement opposite the south parking lot along 58th St causes at least half those who attend worship to miss out on joining us for fellowship. This appears to be the case especially when it comes to first time guests. Many simply leave as soon as church is done. The current situation is problematic also because sometimes first time guests arrive for worship early and there is no fellowship opportunity for them before the service in the auditorium since all our fellowship efforts are focused in the commons after the service.
4. 9:30 am may be an ideal worship time for people with a Midwest church background. If we are truly a mission church in Miami with a core value that says "We always think of

others first”... is 9:30 am the ideal time to reach those in our DSA and Doral communities? Or is 9:30 perhaps too early? [Let’s assume for a minute that 10:00 am or 10:30 am would be a more ideal start time for reaching our community. In our current situation these start times are not an option due to the changeover that needs to take place in the parking lot and in the auditorium for our Spanish service to be ready at 11:30 am. Note: One issue we are currently starting to face is that our Spanish service guests aren’t always easily able to find parking in the south lot nearest the auditorium since it’s full of English service cars.]

5. Moving into the Worship Arts Center (W/AC) as our permanent place of worship is at least 2 years away. If we do nothing before then, we are essentially saying that it’s ok to remain stagnant. Therefore, this proposal is that we make a change by the start of the 2019-2020 school year in order to welcome more guests to worship and fellowship, see more lives changed with the gospel, and build the momentum needed to ultimately build the W/AC.

4 Core Values to Keep in Mind (WHO we are)



We Thrive on More Joy Than Guilt

Jesus frees us from the guilt of falling short. This message is called the gospel. It’s what Christianity is all about. You will hear this in our sermons, see it in relationships, and experience it yourself in the assurance of God’s grace through Jesus.



We Always Think of Others First

Out of love for our Savior, we believe the needs of people outside the church should take priority over the preferences of those inside the church. Like Jesus, we want to love other people enough to meet them where they are at by removing barriers and making sure everyone feels welcome.



We Believe in Building Bridges

We look for natural ways to connect with people’s everyday lives—whether in our local communities, in our schools, at the park or beach, etc. We believe it’s important to develop healthy relationships built on mutual trust and respect.



We Want Everyone Taking Ownership

Everyone has a part to play. As a church family we share the joy of working hard together to carry out the mission of the church using our energy, time, and talents. Divine Savior is our church. We hope it might become your church too. We are better together!

3 Potential Courses of Action (The WHAT)

Option A—The Big Box

Description: Worship in the High School Gym with fellowship in the Commons

PROS	CONS
Largest space on campus, has most room to grow	Requires biggest commitment of volunteer army – all hands on deck, all the time. Set-up AND take-down teams every weekend. [Key Question: Could this also be a PRO if it means getting more people involved in serving, or would it mean burning out already committed volunteers?]
Natural flow of fellowship into the commons immediately following worship. More guests will stay for fellowship.	Least “churchy” space – it’s a big box with non-dimmable bright lights and loud A/C. (A/C could be cranked up before the service and then turned off right before the service begins. <i>Caveat</i> : It’s best for protecting the gym floor to maintain a consistent year-round temp which would mean letting the A/C noisily kick in during the service sometimes.)
Alleviates parking congestion conflict with Spanish service since English service guests would park west and north	Potential conflicts with athletic department needs—playoff games held on Saturdays, need for Saturday practices, etc.
Could use current high school chapel a/v system for worship team needs. Wouldn’t need to bring equipment from the auditorium. Spanish service could keep church equipment in the auditorium.	Difficulty of hearing the spoken word through the house speakers in the gym; would need to potentially invest in some speakers on speaker stands
	Might need / want to buy new chairs that are at least as nice as the ones in the auditorium. Available current white plastic chairs are flimsy and stinky; issue for new chairs: storage?
	The Spanish service would need a set-up team of their own for their service in the auditorium. Currently we have an English service team set-up on Saturday evenings when DSYouth doesn’t meet.
	Could require investments of \$ for a different flooring solution that is quicker and easier than the mat system we currently have for special services, also staging, backdrops, lights.

Option B—The Cozy Commons

Description: Worship and Fellowship in the High School Commons

PROS	CONS
Most aesthetically pleasing / welcoming space on campus; pleasant indirect light on Sunday morning	Might need / want to buy new chairs that are at least as nice as the ones in the auditorium. Available current white plastic chairs are flimsy and stinky; issue for new chairs: storage?
Requires less set-up than the gym (though more than the auditorium)	Main seating area would accommodate about as many as the auditorium, although there are various creative ways to accommodate more chairs to allow for a max capacity of around 300-350 chairs with standing room.
Fellowship can happen in same space immediately after worship: More people stay for fellowship when they see and smell food, welcoming and easy for first time guests.	The Spanish service would need a set-up team of their own for their service in the auditorium. Currently we have an English service team set-up on Saturday evenings when DSYouth doesn't meet.
Already has 4 nice speakers located in ceiling – has good sound. Could use current high school chapel a/v equipment for worship team needs. Wouldn't need to bring equipment from the auditorium. Spanish service could keep church equipment in the auditorium.	
Could create welcome kiosk area in HS entrance; have display of W/AC plans and capital campaign goals/progress visible on the "steps to nowhere" to create anticipation. Keeps the ultimate goal of the W/AC in front of everyone.	

Alleviates parking congestion conflict with Spanish service since English service guests would park west and north	

Option C—Add a Service

Description: Status quo worship in the auditorium on Sunday morning at 9:30 am while adding another service option on either Saturday evening or other weekday evening.

PROS	CONS
Adds an option—more people will opt for worship including people who work or travel on weekends, people who think 9:30 am is too early, people who simply want to save Sunday for rest and family.	Increases the workload of pastors—other things would need to be dropped. Removes an evening usually reserved for family or for making ministry related home visits, Bible studies, or academy events.
Alleviates the 80% capacity rule on Sunday morning while otherwise maintaining status quo. Least change required related to the venue itself.	Would people be ok with “worship lite” and a “practice sermon”?
	Splits our church family into another two groups; potentially hurts fellowship as one church family
	Requires a new set of volunteers (set-up and take-down, screen, musicians, fellowship, kids ministry). Q: Would we want to provide any fellowship or kids ministry during an evening service?