

Safety Advisory Committee (SAC)

We have received a full Safety Survey from Thomas Hausner and Associates. Overall, we were glad to find that we have some good things in place and we were not surprised to see that there are some important things we need to address. Safety was the top concern raised at our annual meeting in January, and we are striving to address safety concerns in as swift and cost-effective manner possible.

LOCKED DOORS - We have received a lot of feedback in regard to the Fellowship Hall doors being locked. We understand that with the handicap parking spots right there, it would be very convenient to be able to enter through those doors. We also know that carrying things into the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen is a lot easier when coming in those doors. However, we also know that having ONE entrance into the building is very important for safety. The door can be propped open when bringing things in, but not for extended periods of time. We continue to work toward figuring out solutions to this issue. We want to be accommodating, but we also want to be safe!

The greatest concern discovered in the survey was the fact that our main entrance doors are completely unlocked every day, and our building is full of children. We are presently pursuing security options much like those you would expect at any public school. We need to protect the children in Little Sprouts Day Care. Our hope is to have door procedures in place that will allow Immanuel and Little Sprouts families to enter at will, and allow us to 'buzz in' visitors and guests through a camera/speaker system. We will communicate any changes as they come. The main doors will remain unlocked on Sunday mornings and for community events such as weddings, funerals, and special worship services like Holy Week.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES - We have recently received some excellent foundational materials to allow us to handle all emergencies more effectively. This summer we will train staff and volunteers in these new procedures. The reality is we're more likely to have a medical/trauma emergency or weather event than a security emergency. We now have the resources to be better equipped for any emergency!