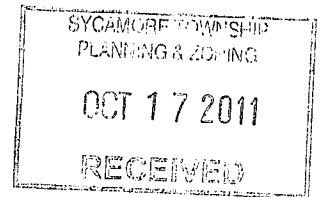


**From:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
7701 Kenwood Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236

**Date:** Oct 21, 2011

**To:** Sycamore Township  
Board of Zoning Appeals



**Subject:** LETTER of INTENT

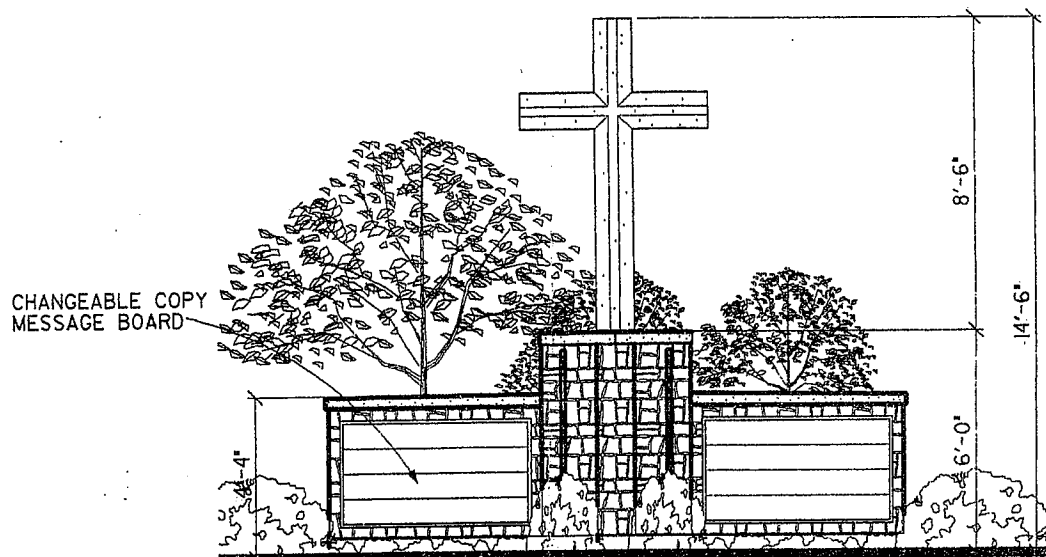
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located on the west side of Kenwood Road, across from Kenwood Towne Center. The church is south of the Kenwood Theaters, and north of Joseph A Banks, Trios and Dr Bobbitt's office.

The church property is 2.249 acres.

Good Shepherd would like to update its sign. The existing sign is a v-shaped, monument, backlit, changeable-letter sign. The church would like to replace only the changeable-letter portion of the signs with LED message boards that can be remotely updated from a computer.

The current changeable-letter signs are 32" x 108". New variable message signs would be designed to fit within these same spaces in the existing masonry monument sign. The new signs would be monochrome, LED message boards with room for four lines of text, just like the existing signs.

A photo of the current sign is shown on page 4. A drawing of the sign is shown below:



This letter is to request a variance to the Sycamore Township code, Chapter 13, related to signs.

Section 13-5 of the code covers **GENERAL STANDARDS**, and Section 13-5.1.1 covers **Illumination**.

Section 13-5.1.1 (c) states:

*Flashing Lights Prohibited. Except when expressly permitted by this Chapter, no flashing, moving laser generated, strobe, blinking or intermittent lights shall be permitted on or as part of any sign. This does not pertain to electronic message signs unless they negatively affect traffic.*

Section 13-7 of the code covers **SIGNS SPECIFICALLT PROHIBITED IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS**.

Section 13-7 (b) states:

*Signs that move or give the appearance of moving, including pennants, streamers, flags in excess of sixty (60) square feet, other than government flags and other signs, unless otherwise approved as part of Localized Alternative Sign Regulations pursuant to Section 13-15. (This section does not prohibit variable message signs or signs designed with periodic rotation.)*

Section 13-7 (c)

*Flashing Signs. Signs containing flashing or running lights or lights creating an illusion of movement, excluding holiday decorations and time and temperature devices which display time and temperature messages only.*

**RATIONALE:**

We acknowledge and affirm the Township's rationale about automobile safety and the beauty of the community, which stand behind these General Standards. We wish to support the intent of those Standards and believe our proposal will do so.

The existing two message boards are showing their age. Replacing them would upgrade the overall appearance of the property and thereby support the Standards.

Messages on the existing boards are presently changed daily or sometimes only weekly. You can see examples in the picture on page 4. They would be changed a bit more frequently if it were not so cumbersome to do so due to the existing system and, frequently, due to weather conditions. Electronic message boards would overcome those obstacles. Yet, we do not believe it would be effective for us, and therefore do not desire, to have messages change multiple times during any given hour. There are seldom days in which more than three or four different messages would ever make sense for us. Relatively static messages would therefore be beneficial for us and also support Township Standards.

The proposed sign for Good Shepherd thus addresses both the Township General Standards concerning safety and beauty, as well as the needs of the church.


**PROPOSAL:**

Our proposal is to covenant with the Township that messages displayed on new LED message boards would be scheduled to change *no more than once per hour* in any given day. We are open to limiting the number of changes even further if the Township so desires (e.g. Messages only change every two or three hours; No message changes during peak traffic periods; etc.). Subsequently, there could never be more than 24 message changes (one per hour) in any given day, and even less if further restrictions were to be adopted.

Generally, there would be no more than three-to-six distinct messages per day, which would be rotated throughout the day according to the agreed upon schedule. No messages would be displayed that in any manner could be construed as blinking, flashing, scrolling, moving or intermittent. Thus, we believe that the messages would not negatively affect traffic in any way and fulfill the intent of the General Standards.

More than just being convenient, the ability to change the messages on the sign from a computer in the church office will also be safer and more comfortable because church staff will not be exposed to bad weather conditions.

In light of the proposed covenant, may we have your approval for this variance?

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Donner, Senior Pastor  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

JUN. 10 5PM 7:30  
SAT 5PM SUN. 8, 9, 9:30 & 11  
SERMON:  
BEARING FRUIT

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

EUCHRE TOURNEY OCT. 15  
BENEFITS HUNGRY  
RUMMAGE SALE  
SAT. OCT. 1 9 TO NOON