

## Fitzpatrick, Denise

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**From:** Jodie Imel <jimel@westlafayette.in.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:50 AM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Denise  
**Subject:** Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

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Good morning –

Please see the original email below detailing West Lafayette Fire Department's opposition to this proposed variance. Thank you.

Jodie Imel, EFO  
Fire Inspector  
West Lafayette Fire Department  
300 North St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
765.775.5178 (office)  
765.337.3318 (mobile)  
765.775.5177 (fax)

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**From:** Jodie Imel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:46 AM  
**To:** 'variance\_online@dhs.in.gov' <variance\_online@dhs.in.gov>; 'susan@roadworksmfg.com' <susan@roadworksmfg.com>; 'tupper@rtmconsultants.com' <tupper@rtmconsultants.com>; 'rob@keystonearch.com' <rob@keystonearch.com>  
**Cc:** Tony Schutter <tschutter@westlafayette.in.gov>; David Buck <dbuck@westlafayette.in.gov>; Jason Hardebeck <jhardebeck@westlafayette.in.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

To All It Concerns:

As proposed, West Lafayette Fire Department **opposes** the proposed variance submitted for University Lutheran Church, 100 S. Chauncey Ave., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

To build the 3-story (one story below grade; two stories above), Type VB construction, business occupancy, the **entire** addition shall be protected with an approved sprinkler system in accordance with Indiana Building Code and NFPA 13.

Please note, I am now the contact for WLFD; Mike Francis has returned to the West Lafayette Police Department. All of my contact information is below.

WLFD is also requesting DHS contact information regarding this proposed variance. Thank you.

Should there be any additional questions or concerns regarding the proposed variance, please contact this office.

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## Fitzpatrick, Denise

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**From:** Jodie Imel <jimel@westlafayette.in.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:08 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Denise  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

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Good afternoon –

Please see the follow up email below. Thank you.

Jodie Imel, EFO  
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West Lafayette Fire Department  
300 North St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
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**From:** Jodie Imel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:05 PM  
**To:** 'Melissa Tupper' <tupper@rtmconsultants.com>; variance\_online@dhs.in.gov; susan@roadworksmfg.com; rob@keystonearch.com  
**Cc:** Tony Schutter <tschutter@westlafayette.in.gov>; David Buck <dbuck@westlafayette.in.gov>; Jason Hardebeck <jhardebeck@westlafayette.in.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

Melissa –

While Chapter 9 may not require a sprinkler system, Table 503 does. A Group B occupancy of Type VB construction is limited to two stories or 9000 square feet in area. The basement is considered a story by definition: **“STORY.** That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above (also see *“Basement,” “Building height,” “Grade plane,” and Mezzanine”*). It is measured as the vertical distance from top to top of two successive tiers of beams or finished floor surfaces, for the topmost story, from the top of the floor finish to the top of the ceiling joists or, where there is not a ceiling, to the top of the roof rafters.”

While the design intend is to keep “the addition . . . structurally independent from the existing building,” use of the load-bearing exterior wall eliminates the key feature of a firewall: its ability to remain standing, and continue to protect whatever is on the opposite side, when one side collapses. Installation of approved fire-rated opening protectives would then be required, as well as continued monitoring and maintenance of any new penetrations made in this existing wall. If there is a fire alarm system in the building, electro-mag locks would be permitted; if not, the doors would be required to be shut at all times, which typically doesn’t happen.

By only suppressing the basement, two-thirds of this building could be fully involved in fire before the sprinklers even activate. Again, a basement-only sprinkler system does little to control and extinguish any fire in this facility and places all emergency responders at risk. Without a full sprinkler system, this variance does adversely affect the health, safety

and welfare of the public. Structural integrity for unsuppressed light-weight construction is compromised in less than seven minutes.

Therefore, WLFDD continues to oppose this variance.

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**From:** Melissa Tupper [mailto:tupper@rtmconsultants.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 10:00 AM  
**To:** Jodie Imel <jimel@westlafayette.in.gov>; variance\_online@dhs.in.gov; susan@roadworksmfg.com; rob@keystonearch.com  
**Cc:** Tony Schutter <tschutter@westlafayette.in.gov>; David Buck <dbuck@westlafayette.in.gov>; Jason Hardebeck <jhardebeck@westlafayette.in.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

Jodie,

The building is 2-stories with a basement. Chapter 9 of the Indiana Building Code does not require a B Occupancy to be sprinklered. The variance has nothing to do with not sprinklering the addition as this is not required by code.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Melissa M. Tupper, P.E.  
Fire Protection Engineer

**RTM Consultants, Inc.**  
6640 Parkdale Place, Suite J  
Indianapolis, IN 46254

(317) 329-7700 ext 104  
(317) 329-8411 fax

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**From:** Jodie Imel [mailto:jimel@westlafayette.in.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:46 AM  
**To:** variance\_online@dhs.in.gov; susan@roadworksmfg.com; Melissa Tupper; rob@keystonearch.com  
**Cc:** Tony Schutter; David Buck; Jason Hardebeck  
**Subject:** Proposed Variance - University Lutheran Church

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