

Q: *How can we afford a \$4.2 million building project when sometimes we struggle just to make our budget?*

A: Yes, that is true. We sometimes make special requests to fulfill our commitments, but, in the end, we meet or even exceed our needs. One factor is that most of our regular giving comes from our income. However, a major appeal like this one challenges all of us to consider giving from our total resources. Yes, even our stocks, bonds, real estate, business assets, etc. are open to God's consideration.

While some of us do not have such assets, quite a few of us do. And, it is a combination of many smaller gifts of \$10, \$30 or \$50 per week for a three-year period pooled together with larger amounts of five, six and even seven-figures that will accomplish this vision.

Remember, over three years a weekly gift of \$50 amounts to \$7,800!

Q: *Is it possible to make a substantial non-cash gift for the campaign?*

A: Of course! For many people, non-cash gifts are the best ways to give. Such gifts allow them the opportunity to share their wisdom in selecting securities, real estate and other assets that have now appreciated. Please see the Creative Giving Options brochure to learn more. In addition, your accountant or financial advisor may suggest other ways, too!

Q: *Could I talk to someone else about non-cash gifts?*

A: Sure! We do have local specialists to help us, but in our partnership with Kairos, feel free to contact our consultant, John Cross (503/708-3799) with any questions.

Q: *If I make a financial contribution to the capital campaign, can I have a loved one memorialized or honored in some way?*

A: Yes. Any gift may be designated as a memorial.

Q: *When can I offer my pledge?*

A: There is a Commitment Card enclosed with the DVD. Pray about your gift and bring your card with you to worship on May 1. Extra cards will be available.

Q: *If I have other questions, what should I do?*

A: Please contact campaign co-chairs David Bruning or Scott Saenger, or Pastor Roschke.

Q: *What else should I be doing?*

A: Pray!

O God, Creator of all things, you have entrusted me with so much. Give me your Spirit's wisdom to use my possessions wisely for my growth and for the good of others. Allow me to avoid becoming trapped by the desire for more. Loosen my grip on all that I claim is "mine" so that I may be released to freely respond to the needs of the world. Send me into this day with a new vision, with renewed passion and purpose for the daily ministry to which you have invited me. Amen.

SOME COMMONLY HEARD QUESTIONS ...AND OUR BEST ANSWERS!



Giving includes the gift of yourself: It is an attitude.

“...And this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and by the will of God, to us...” II Corinthians 8:5

Q: *Why are we undertaking the “Building on Grace ~ The Next 50” campaign at this time?*

A: For 50 years, the people that are Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church have received God's blessings through dynamic and spirit-filled worship, wonderful pastors, willing servants who teach, care for one another, reach out to the lost and lonely, feed the poor and serve our community. This campaign is a part of continuing this mission and ministry today and into the future.

Q: *How does this campaign enhance our ministry as a congregation?*

A: Our buildings are tired, but our dreams are alive and well. Just as the early members of our congregation prepared for their future, our efforts to renew our facilities today will be a major step toward our future. We want to be here to serve the next generation.

In addition, during this process we often have the opportunity to take a closer look at our lives and our relationship with Jesus Christ — to ask ourselves, “What is most important to me and to my family?” “What do I value most?” “How significant is my faith?”

Q: *Is a congregational building program a worthy place to make our most significant charitable contributions?*

A: People in our world are looking for answers, for meaning, for a connection. The local congregation is still the best place to make such connections. The local congregation is still where the major events of life are recognized and blessed. Our congregation is where we celebrate baptisms, where we teach our children about God, where young people affirm their faith, where those in love are married, where we call when a loved one needs pastoral care, where many of our closest friends are and where we fellowship. Our congregation is where we can pray, laugh, shed tears, study, reflect and put our entire lives in perspective as we hear the Word of God proclaimed. In our worship together, we confess our sinfulness, accept God's forgiveness and are renewed through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Yes, God's Church and Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church are still important, maybe now more than ever!

Q: *It sounds like this campaign is not "ministry as usual." Why all the excitement? Why the urgency?*

A: We are known and respected throughout our community. We are blessed with a faithful pastor and talented lay leaders. We are blessed with diversity unknown among most Lutheran congregations. For centuries the Lutheran Church has proclaimed the biblical message of "salvation by grace through faith." We believe we have what the world needs. Yet, all too often, we Lutherans have not reached beyond our own membership. The time is now, and Salem is the place. We cannot let this opportunity pass.

Q: *Can we expect to attract more new members as a result of this building program?*

A: Our rejuvenated facilities will certainly bring a great deal of attention to Salem. Consistently, studies show that an inviting, attractive and up-to-date facility is important to first-time visitors. Most churches have experienced a healthy and sustained growth following such a building program, and we certainly believe that will happen here, as well.

Q: *What would happen if we do not carry out this building program?*

A: No one knows for sure. However, we do know what has happened to thousands of other congregations around the country. Traditionally, churches that gradually allow their facilities to deteriorate follow a path of first numerical, then financial, and eventually spiritual decline.

Q: *Why are we trying to raise the entire \$4.2 million over the next three years?*

A: Why limit ourselves? Although our overall need is \$4.2 million, our immediate goal is to raise \$1.5 million. We are also prayerfully seeking special gifts of \$2.7 million

to help us achieve the full need. Think about it. Our congregation has not ever held a major capital campaign, and the projected building additions and remodeling we need for the future would be very difficult to deliver in separate phases. As a result, we have chosen to present the entire project cost as the complete challenge it represents. With God's help, the resources to raise the difference of \$2.7 million will be revealed to us.

Q: *What if we do not raise the entire \$4.2 million in the next three years?*

A: We know that there are no guarantees, but we live by faith and this is a campaign founded on faith. Historically, churches around the country have taken a variety of actions when the pledged amount is lower than the projected cost of fulfilling the vision. Some have borrowed money and agreed to make payments on a mortgage. Others plan a series of campaigns over the years as they phase the project. By the end of May our Congregation Council will evaluate where we are and then make a recommendation to the congregation.

Q: *What is the first step for me?*

A: Prayer is always the first step. Pray about your decision. We will have many opportunities for prayer during this campaign. Regular prayer helps us to strengthen our faith as we come to trust God in our giving decision.

Q: *What else can I do?*

A: Use your strengthened trust in God to be faithful in attending all of the Sunday services and special meetings that we will have over the next several weeks. Talk to your friends and encourage them with your excitement and eagerness to participate. Begin now to prayerfully consider what you will give over the next three years. Actually, you will find it easy to come up with a "comfortable amount," something that you know you can easily give.

But, God does not call us to be comfortable. So, offer your gift up in prayer, again. Open yourself to moving beyond this comfort-zone in your support of our congregation. Ask yourself: Is this the time for me to move into the realm of "joyful sacrifice"? Is this my time to make a "legacy gift" that will lift my spirit and dramatically impact our ministry for years to come?

Q: *What if I cannot give enough to the Building on Grace Fund?*

A: Do not worry about the size of your gift. Everyone can give something — even you. No amount is too small. One thing is certain: The Bible teaches that there must be equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Jesus spoke clearly about the "widow's mite" (Mark 12:41-44) as well as about the responsibilities of those "to whom much has been given" (Luke 12:48). Regardless of your campaign gift, please continue to support Salem through your regular offerings.