



CAMPAIGN MESSENGER

A publication of First Lutheran Church

Called to Welcome

Issue 1 April 8, 2018

Campaign Announced

We are pleased to announce the launching of a very special campaign effort for the benefit of First Lutheran Church. It's entitled the *Called to Welcome* campaign and its aim is raising the funds required to implement a building project focusing on accessibility and living out our welcoming statement.

Our minimum goal is to raise \$2,500,000 which will enable us to create welcoming and accessible entry and worship spaces. A challenge goal of \$3,500,000 has also been set which, if met, will enable us to provide a suitable number of appropriately sized restrooms within our facility and address the safety and efficiency of our kitchen. Finally, reaching our ultimate goal of \$4,500,000 will allow us to create a safe, accessible, and welcoming education wing and completely finish our project.

The campaign will officially commence with a special "Kick-Off Celebration" scheduled for April 15 and will culminate on May 19 and 20. This Commitment Weekend is when members will be asked to make their campaign gift commitments.

The pages that follow provide additional details about our needs,

our plans, and our campaign.

Through the prayerful, volunteer and financial support of many, we will succeed in our task. In so doing, we will help to make First Lutheran Church an even more special and spectacular place to go and to grow in God's name.



Campaign Leadership Enlisted

Our campaign leadership "cabinet" is now in place. This critical core group of leaders will give guidance and drive the overall campaign.

Serving as Chairpersons of this special effort are **Lee Rockwell**, who will assume primary responsibility for the Advance Gifts Committee and phase of the campaign and **Barbara Johnson Frank and Todd & Kim Hall**, who will oversee the Community Gifts

Committee and phase.

In addition, we have been blessed with an excellent supporting cast who are tasked with leading our other necessary campaign committees. They are **Donice Kaspar**, who will lead our Prayer Committee; **Terry & Cindy Lander**, who will lead our committee for Hospitality; **Jennifer Wemhoff**, who will lead our committee for Youth and Children's Gifts; **Becca Simley**, who will lead our

Communications Committee; and **Tyler Mainquist**, who will lead our Creative Giving Committee.

Finally, we also are blessed to already have the following

people step up and agree to serve on our Advance Gifts Team—the group of volunteers who will be visiting a select group of members in advance of Commitment Weekend and inviting them to consider their gifts. Serving on the Advance Gifts Team so far are: **Robin & Jerry Westhoff, Carlene & Bob Falos, Marsha McKinsey, Patrick Hayden-Roy, and Jim Bohl.**

Many more leaders and workers are needed to help with this important effort. **So, please say "yes" to volunteering when you are asked**, or contact Bryan Hanson in our Campaign Office at 402-488-0919 or by email at called2welcome@fclincoln.org to say that you'll happily help!



Our Needs

In 2017, the Building Committee worked to develop a plan. They examined recommendations given by the Visioning Team for Accessibility & Worship – and concluded: our current facility is preventing us from fulfilling our mission & being a fully welcoming congregation due to numerous shortcomings with regard to accessibility.

They then reviewed the work done for the 2012 master plan & program statement as a starting place to create a new program statement – appropriate for our project & focused around our accessibility goals.

Worship Space

This Visioning Team reported that the sanctuary is a striking structure with many beautiful elements; however, many parts are looking old & tired, & the room presents problems regarding a range of theological, aesthetic & functional considerations, in addition to multiple accessibility issues.

- The music area is only accessible via stairs, making it inaccessible to anyone with mobility challenges. Also, it's a very cramped space for our choir, especially when there is added instrumentation to enhance our worship.

*God calls us
to care for, cultivate,
and improve all
that He has
entrusted to us.
This is what it
means to be
a good steward
of all of
God's gifts.*

- There is no wheelchair accessible seating in the sanctuary without having a restricted view or sitting in front of the first pew.
- Because the altar is up on steps, there's no accessibility for those using wheelchairs or with mobility challenges—restricting some from actively participating & also from volunteering in worship roles.
- The emergency exit from the sanctuary is not wheelchair accessible.
- The sanctuary flooring is old & tired looking, & the pews are uncomfortable.
- The space is dark with minimal ambient light.

Restrooms

Our current restrooms are not truly accessible. While they may be able to accommodate a wheelchair entering the door to the restroom, a wheelchair cannot roll all the way to a toilet. In addition, restrooms are not logically located throughout the building – some being in places without much traffic, & no restrooms located in other high traffic & necessary areas. We do not have any family restrooms either. Finally, in the Sunday School (former preschool) space, we do not have restrooms that accommodate our needs for allowing children to go to the bathroom & still have appropriate supervision in the classroom.

Kitchen

In addition, our current kitchen has concerns regarding space, accessibility, & safety.

- The space itself does not have an efficient layout & is too small.
- Both the range & oven provide safety issues: for them to operate, one must turn on the gas on the wall next to the oven before lighting. For the range, that means using a lighter to light up to 10 burners (while the natural gas

remains emitting); for the oven that means lying on the floor to light it. In addition, the range hood does not meet code.

- The dishwasher is unsafe too. When opening after a cycle, the hot steam rising is dangerous. In addition, the heavy racks must be removed to unload the machine. It's a dangerous process for many, & prohibitive for others.

Nursery & Sunday School Area

The dedicated areas for the youngest in our midst have their own challenges.

As previously mentioned– the bathroom in the Sunday School area is one such problem.

Additionally, our nursery area is not the first impression that we want to make for visiting young families, & not the representation of how we want to care for children. The room is small, dull, & a mishmash of toys & furniture. It also does not have a sink or toilet in or connected to the space.

Miscellaneous Compliance, Safety & Accessibility Issues

There are additional issues on the property to be addressed in order to be the safe, efficient, & welcoming church we desire to be:

- The unsafe ramp out door 10 is too steep & the railing next to it is open.
- The main entrance is at an incline & difficult to navigate with mobility challenges & in winter weather.
- The roof over the sanctuary is 50+ years old. Some sections need to be repaired; others may need to be replaced.
- The lower level HVAC system is inefficient & doesn't heat or cool properly. Costs to operate it are high & parts are expensive because of its age.

Our Plans

The first goal of the Visioning Statement is to provide a facility accessible to all, & an adequate worship space in terms of theology, aesthetics & functionality. We plan to address the needs outlined in a way that demonstrates our commitment to living out our welcoming statement. We will address seating, accessibility, & aesthetics in the sanctuary; make restrooms accessible; create an accessible & safe kitchen; change our Sunday School & Nursery areas into welcoming & safe places for children; & address other compliance, safety & accessibility issues.

Worship Space

We will enhance our worship space by improving seating flexibility, the design & accessibility of the chancel area, & the choir areas. We will create a sanctuary promoting a welcoming, bright, & fresh environment with color & texture while maintaining current iconic elements such as the hanging cross & use of wood.

- By having both pews & chairs, our seating will be more flexible & will allow spaces for wheelchairs, scooters, & walkers. Pews & chairs will be padded, have kneelers & continue to provide seating for 275-300.
- The space will be light & bright with programmable lighting & increased light by incorporating natural or enhanced light into the space.
- Flooring will be changed to match contemporary aesthetics.
- The chancel will be changed to make it accessible, while still maintaining a communion rail.
- Additional space will be created on the main floor to accommodate the choir & instrumentation.

Restrooms

To align with our commitment to accessibility, we will ensure restroom code compliance for wheelchair access as well as to provide facilities for families with young children.

- Near the front door, we will add additional multi-stall, handicapped accessible bathrooms.
- We will also provide at least one oversized family restroom.
- The deck, currently an unused space, will be partially converted into a building expansion with two additional restrooms.
- We will move & add restrooms adjoining each two Sunday School classrooms in the hall.

Kitchen

Our new kitchen will address safety & efficiency & be large enough for a group of 7-10 people to work together comfortably. Our goal is ensuring code compliance of appliances, work surfaces, & storage. The space will improve accessibility as well.

- We will have a professionally-designed, accessible area—providing efficient flow both for working in the kitchen & in the serving line.
- Improved appliances will include a stove with exhaust system, an oven with an electronic pilot, a freezer, refrigerator, microwave, ice machine, & commercial upright dishwasher.
- Our serve-safe kitchen will feature a double bowl prep sink, hand-wash sink, three bowl scullery sink, code compliant work counters for food preparation, & covered dish storage.

Nursery & Sunday School Area

We want to show our dedication to children at First Lutheran Church. To that end, our goal is having safe, accessible & welcoming spaces for them.

- The nursery will be relocated to the expansion. It will be light, bright, & decorated to feel inviting & reminding young families that Jesus loves their children & we do too.
- Restrooms will adjoin every two



*“For I know
the plans
I have
for you,”
Declares
the Lord,
“Plans to
prosper you
and not to
harm you.
Plans to
give you hope
and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11

classrooms in the Sunday School area.

- An exterior door from this area will have a ramp, making it possible to push out cribs in an emergency.

Miscellaneous Compliance, Safety & Accessibility Issues

Finally, our goal is to address miscellaneous items to ensure safety & code compliance, to improve accessibility, & to improve way-finding on the property.

- We plan to have zero-step accessible entrances at most doors.
- The ramp outside of Door 10 will be resloped & have a new railing enclosure, ensuring the safety of all who use it.
- We will have clear & consistent signage.
- We will add a main entrance covered portico. This will provide a safe drop off—during inclement weather & particularly for the elderly & young families. It will also provide a welcoming first-impression.

How You Can Help

1 Pray

Please **pray** for our volunteers, staff, and for all members of our church community. Pray for our campaign's success. Our future depends on your prayers.



2 Volunteer

Please **volunteer** your time to the campaign effort. Over 80 volunteers are needed to assure that the campaign runs as efficiently and effectively as possible and that the job of volunteering is a relatively easy and enjoyable for everyone.



3 Invest

Please **invest** and make the best gift that you possibly can to our campaign when asked. Long-term subscriptions—or pledges payable over three years in addition to your annual stewardship offerings—are encouraged and essential to meeting our needs.

Your prayerful, volunteer, and financial support will ensure our campaign's and our church community's future success!



"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life."

1 Timothy 6:18-19

What in God's Name is Going on Here?



Hear, Here

Join Us for Our

Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Called to Welcome

Sunday, April 15

At noon in the Activity Center

Enjoy fine food and fellowship with other members. Listen to inspirational talks.

View our newly produced campaign brochure and video and learn first-hand of our needs, our hopes, and our dreams.

You'll hear it all here.

Please plan to attend and discover what in God's name is going on here.