

# Campaign Messenger

The Shepherd's Grace Campaign

Issue 8 April 21, 2024

## Donations/Pledges Update

We've had **33** GS adult donors pledge/donate, for a total of **\$603,938.05** in donations and pledges to date.

Our GS students raised over **\$1,467.01** during their fund raising period.

In total, we have raised **\$605,405.06**

## Commitment Weekend

Commitment Weekend is here and we THANK YOU for providing your personal and financial support.

Moving forward our Campaign Team will be wrapping up their member calls, continue calls to our school and alumni, and launch our fundraising efforts with the broader community, including but not limited to: grants, company matches, businesses, etc.

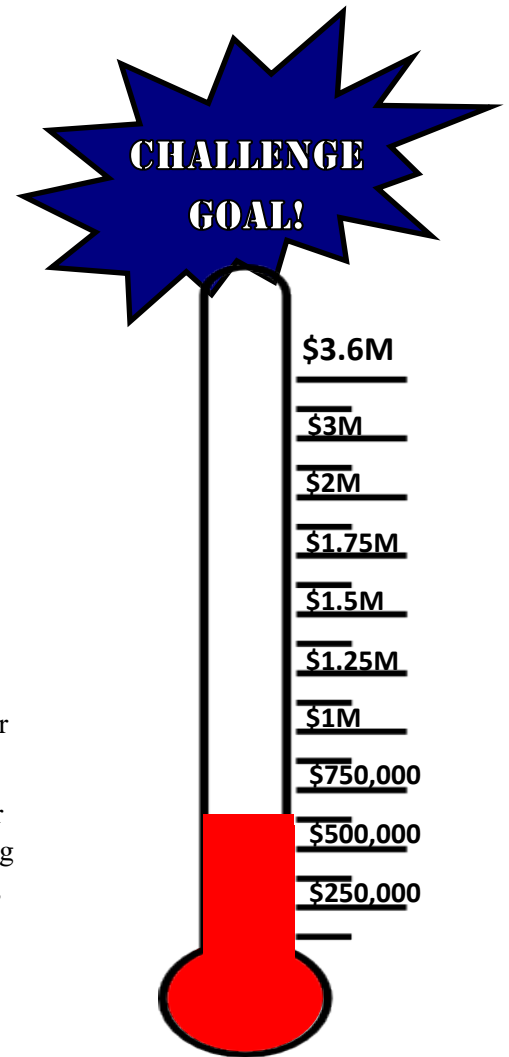
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WINDING DOWN AND HONORING OUR CAMPAIGN EFFORTS ON **MAY 19TH** DURING OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND!



Thank you to all who attended our informational session, creative giving seminars, prayer service, and the Grace Night fundraiser dinner! Huge thanks to our school children and their parents for all the time and energy spent to ensure the success of our campaign.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for stepping up and tackling this tough initiative!

Most importantly, THANKS be to GOD for his ongoing support, love, forgiveness, and overall wisdom in guiding us through this process. We know that He is in control and we are here to use our strengths and God-given gifts to achieve our goals!



# Frequently Asked Questions

## FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

**How can we upgrade again when we haven't paid our bill in 30 years?**

To provide some historical context, GS built the school in 2005 and repaired both parking lots and our roof in the past few years. These expansions and enhancements were financed and therefore our mortgage loan continued to be extended. Had we not moved forward with these efforts, our mortgage would have been paid off many years ago. GS has and continues to make its regular monthly payments on time, without default.

**Why aren't pledges going toward our debt? A campaign newsletter states that if not enough funds are collected, it will be determined where the money will go to.**

Paying off our debt, first and foremost, can certainly be a point of discussion. However, we must also consider the urgent need of expanding the school as it is also impacting our church/fellowship properties. A reminder that our messaging has been that there is a possibility of securing a loan, however, no loan has been taken out. It is part of the contingency plan if we don't acquire enough funds and still decide to move forward.

As stated in previous newsletters, if adequate funds are not raised and our leadership decides to pivot, the congregation can still walk away from the project. Although this would be unfortunate, it remains as an option. The goal is to reach more people with the message of the love of the Messiah. To do that, at least in the school, we need more space.

**Why isn't the needed funds thermometer at the \$7 million mark which is the truth of what is needed to complete the project?**

\$3.6M allows us to complete the storm shelter area without having to take out a loan. After the shelter, we would have the funds needed to move on to the gym construction with little to no loans needed. Therefore, the Campaign Team thought it might be best to aim at a more realistic number of \$3.6M, and if we surpass that we would certainly expand the thermometer. Our ideal state for fundraising is \$7M. Based on some preliminary conversations with members, \$7M seemed too far out of reach, whereas \$3.6M seemed more reasonable. We are trying our best to be mindful in balancing realistic goals while having the opportunity to dream big!

**Many long-time members already pledged to upgrade to move to this location. Is it realistic to expect them to make a large pledge again?**

First and foremost, we put our faith in the Lord that he will provide (Matthew 6). Our membership is composed of both new and long-term members. To ensure equality across all members, everyone is being asked to give their best gift, whatever that may be. We realize some have hardships, fixed incomes, expenses, medical bills, etc. That is why it is up to each member to determine their giving potential.

Our move to this property was over 40 years ago and the time has come once again to grow and expand. What a blessing to find ourselves with an overwhelming need to not only make room for current GS members and programs, but also to be able to leverage the opportunity to engage in outreach efforts through this expansion. We want as many people as possible to come to know Jesus Christ and we stand here asking for your help and support.

**Timing...Does it Matter? Is it better for our family to do a larger gifted amount in 1 calendar year, or to pledge that amount and gift it over a 2-3 year timeframe?**

Everyone's financial and income tax situation is different, so you should consult with your tax accountant and/or financial advisor as to what would make the most sense for you/your family. However, in most situations in today's environment, and with the standard deduction amount being so high, it can be more beneficial to do one larger charitable giving year and lump sum your gift, than to spread it out. This allows you to itemize a larger tax deduction every few years and really reduce/offset income, and still take the large standard deduction during the other years. Obviously this only makes sense if it is affordable for your family and situation.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## DESIGN QUESTIONS

**Why are we not having basement space under the classrooms? It is the most economical space in a building & we are already using off site storage?**

There are several things to consider about having lower levels under the classrooms.

1. Underground sewer and water for the classroom sinks would be more complicated. One part of the building would be slab on grade, the other would have a lower level. Also, if sewer or water would need to run beneath a classroom to another location, it would need to be down 10'+ deeper.
2. Access - the architect would have to address access width, space for stairs, etc. If the space were to be only accessible from the outside, then the exterior grading would have to accommodate walking or other access to the door and stoop.
3. Footings would likely be slightly thicker and wider. The architect and contractor would have to address that and any other possible concerns.

Once again, **no** designs are locked in. Once we have secured funds we can revisit with the architects and contractors to see what exactly we can get with the funds we have. The funds shape how the design will look. Leadership/congregation will make these decisions based on the information given to them.

**Why are we not including a stage area to the gym? Many of the local church schools in our area have this built in space.**

We have not finalized any decisions regarding design and structure. In order to get to that point in this process, contractors want to see that we have the money to invest before they even consider giving us more concrete numbers and design options. However, bear in mind that in the earlier stages of the designs, it did include a stage and when presented to the congregation, it was voted against.

GS previously invested in a portable stage and at this time, it meets our needs, however, as we continue further down this process, we will consider all possibilities to best meet the needs of both our school and church.

A side note: it is in the plans to have storage off the south side of the building that could be retro-fitted to

a stage at a later date if other storage areas are found. The architects strongly stressed that stage areas are one of the worst areas for clutter and have the least return on investment.

## COMMUNICATION QUESTIONS

**Why are we spending so much money on these campaign mailings? The first week we received three letters. Many see this as excessive.**

First and foremost, we have been following the guidance of the consulting firm we hired. The first week was an anomaly as we were still trying to best understand which recommendations we were going to take and which we were going to bypass. Being the first week, we erred on the side of doing as they have laid out in their plans.

Since then, we have not only scaled back on their recommendations, but also pivoted to other more effective and efficient means of marketing and communications.

Lastly, these additional expenses were previously approved via a full congregational vote as part of our movement forward into this process.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## OUTREACH IMPACT QUESTIONS

**If a person gives the amount requested, how is there enough money to give to other charities within Wels & locally such as missions? God tells us feed the hungry & clothe the naked. This project doesn't include that.**

We are all at different points in our journey of faith. It is up to each giver to decide where to direct their funds and in what quantity. Pray. Search your heart. "The Lord will provide."

In response to the amount requested, campaign leaders could have done a better job in explaining that this is merely a "suggested" number. It is part of a formula to try to ensure we reach our goal. At the end of the day, it is up to each household/individual to determine what is within their means to donate. As mentioned, many of us give to numerous other charities. This is a short-term, concerted effort of raising funds and awareness of the blessings God has not only given us, but also allows us to share with our neighbors. We have no idea who will be blessed by this campaign, maybe it will allow for hosting community dinners for those in need, reigniting our garage sales, partnering with local shelters for food or clothing drives, etc. God is going to use this space for His kingdom and we believe in His mighty power, that we are His hands and feet to make this a reality in our community.

**One of the highlighted positives for a new building is the ability to have more community outreach. We used to have many projects & programs that did this such as Christmas for kids, Easter for kids, a church garage sale, etc. It appears we haven't provided community action that involved many or a variety of people. How would this change if we can't get things done together now?**

We certainly want to do more in the community. It is our heartfelt hope that this facility will allow us to bring new visitors to our location and expand not only our gospel outreach but also our community service. Certainly it will require more folks to get involved, but we are hopeful that when they see new outreach opportunities through this facility, they will respond accordingly. We have all been given talents to use for the glory of God.

This campaign has brought many new and long-term members together! New relationships have been built, existing relationships strengthened and we pray that through God's grace all members (school and church) will be reenergized/rejuvenated to step up and serve! With over 50 volunteers, we are moving this campaign forward in a very short amount of time. This is a testament to the power we have as a collective family seeking to grow God's kingdom one step and day at a time.

## Communications Update!

We pray that over this past month or so, you have felt fully informed of the many developments of this campaign. As we move into this next phase, we will be scaling back our communications. For example, instead of weekly, we may publish a newsletter every 2-3 weeks.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a cabinet leader OR submit a question to:

**Angie Koch:** [dr.angelica.koch@gmail.com](mailto:dr.angelica.koch@gmail.com) or text: 507-319-4551

**Angie Koob:** drop by the welcome desk to speak with her directly or leave a written note.