



Beyond The Building

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



OUR VISION

We are a church where faith and life meet through worship, learning and serving. The Spirit is at work at First Lutheran in so many new and dynamic ways! The Beyond the Building campaign is about moving us forward and living out the gospel of Christ.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

For 149 years, First Lutheran Church has been a vibrant Christian community where faith and life meet through worship, learning, and serving in Jesus' name.

From the simple home where our 17 founders gathered — to our beautiful new state-of-the-art facility and a current membership of 2464 — the people of First Lutheran have proclaimed the light of the living Christ throughout our community and the world.

Those early members left a legacy of serving Christ that is alive today. We have been blessed with a history of sacrifice and commitment, of vision and grace; a spirit of gratitude and hospitality, thanksgiving and praise.

As times have changed and our ministry has grown, we have continued to meet the challenges of increased needs and finances, sometimes in miraculous ways. In order to free ourselves to be the church, we must eliminate the current debt for our facility, which is \$2.9 million. A thorough assessment indicates that, together, we have the capacity to reach this goal over the next three years.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—
2 Corinthians 9:7

PASTORS' LETTER

Back in 2015, few could have imagined that in 2020 we would be doing ministry in our new church home. Back then, there were lots of questions. Today, thanks to many of you, what was once a dream has now become a reality.

It has been energizing to see our mission unfold as God continues to open doors of opportunity here at First Lutheran. Since the move to our new building, our worship attendance numbers have increased by over 700 attendees monthly. Our Children and Youth Ministries continue to grow and as a result, lives are impacted.

The Beyond the Building Campaign is a response to all that God is doing here at First Lutheran and provides the opportunity for us to free ourselves up and eliminate our mortgage. By doing so, we can put our energy and resources into living out our mission. It might seem hard to imagine that we could achieve our goal over the next three years, yet look at what we've already accomplished! Together, our goal of \$2.9 million is definitely within our reach.

Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Every gift matters and each gift is crucial as we come together to keep the momentum going and remain faithful to God's mission. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might give your best gift in achieving our goal.

Thank you,

Pastor Greg Billberg, Pastor Kari van Wakeren



GIVING OPTIONS

There are a variety of ways to give—
not each one fits everyone.

ASSET-BASED GIVING

Appreciated Assets: A gift of investment assets which have appreciated in value is one of the most common gifting strategies.

Stocks and Bonds: Funding charitable giving with appreciated stocks or bonds can be very advantageous to both the donor and the church. The donor will avoid paying any capital gains taxes while receiving a full value charitable deduction, and the church will receive a very liquid asset. To claim all these benefits, the stocks/bonds must be transferred to the church rather than selling them and donating the proceeds, which then turns the gift into an ordinary cash gift.

INCOME-BASED GIVING

Priority Budgeting: One approach to giving is by rearranging priorities during the campaign. This might be achieved by postponing a planned expenditure or by sharing a portion of a salary increase or bonus as part of your gift.

Another possible approach is through various types of investments that distribute interest or dividends. If the donor is not using the distribution for current income, rather than to be reinvested, the interest or dividends may be assigned, for a defined period, to the campaign. The donor retains ownership of the asset.

Life Insurance: Some people have accumulated cash in insurance policies which they then give to the church. Others purchase new policies with the church as beneficiary or name the church beneficiary of an existing policy. Donors may also give the entire policy as an outright gift.

IRA Rollover: It is possible to make a gift directly from an IRA. Donors who are 70 1/2 years or older may roll over gifts up to \$100,000/year directly from their IRA to the church. This rollover will count toward their Required Minimum Distribution, will not be taxable income, but will also not be allowed as a charitable deduction for those who itemize their deductions. Donors should contact their IRA administrator to direct their rollover gift to the church.

If you have questions or would like to discuss any of these options with someone from church, call the church office at 320.762.2196.

Tax advantages should never be assumed. The various gifting strategies have certain tax implications which may or may not affect a specific donor's personal income liability. For expert assistance, consult a tax attorney or tax accountant.

GIVING TIERS OVER 3 YEARS

Your gift is based on your capacity to give.
Most people give a monthly gift over the three year campaign.
Here are some examples:

GIFT PER MONTH	GIFT PER YEAR	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$10	\$120	\$360
\$25	\$300	\$900
\$50	\$600	\$1,800
\$85	\$1,000	\$3,000
\$125	\$1,500	\$4,500
\$170	\$2,000	\$6,000
\$210	\$2,500	\$7,500
\$250	\$3,000	\$9,000
\$330	\$4,000	\$12,000
\$420	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$580	\$7,000	\$21,000

*Totals rounded to the nearest dollar.



FAQS

WHAT IS THE BEYOND THE BUILDING VISION?

The vision for this campaign is in response to First Lutheran's desire to continue to grow our ministry and all that God is doing through our church. By eliminating our long-term debt, we can effectively continue to grow and expand our ministry to the congregation and to the community.

WHAT IS OUR FINANCIAL GOAL FOR THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

The goal is to pay off our debt in the amount of \$2.9 million in three years. Based on our last campaign, which raised \$4.1 million, and by each one of us giving our best gift, this is an achievable goal.

WHAT WAS THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW BUILDING?

The total project cost was \$9.7 million.

WHEN WILL THE NEW SANCTUARY BE BUILT?

After the Beyond the Building campaign is complete in 2024, our financial capabilities will be assessed and we will begin to discern as a congregation both the timetable and our financial ability to proceed with the construction phase of a new sanctuary.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR OUR CURRENT MORTGAGE?

Our monthly mortgage payments of \$25,010 will be made through the support of the Beyond the Building Campaign and are not part of the annual operating budget. The previous campaign, From the Ground Up, ended in 2020. We still owe \$2.9 million on our mortgage. This is the debt that we are addressing in the Beyond the Building campaign.

In 2020, we increased our budget by 11%, which is a significant but needed increase. We acknowledge that it is a step of faith for us to both increase our annual stewardship

and accomplish a capital campaign. With that being said, our priority is always to support our day-to-day mission and ministry. We firmly believe we can accomplish both. First Lutheran has always been and continues to be faithful and engaged stewards.

WHAT IS OUR INTEREST RATE ON THE LOAN?

Our current loan is through the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, and our current interest rate is 4.0%.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF GROWTH THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN RECENT YEARS AT FIRST LUTHERAN?

We have been averaging 700 more worshippers per month since our relocation. Children and Youth Ministries have both seen continuous growth on a monthly basis. Community Preschool has significantly grown in attendance in the 2019-20 school year with approximately 125 slots filled, as opposed to 83 at our old location. New member numbers also continue to rise with 138 people joining in 2020.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

We are thankful for God's faithfulness and invite you to support First Lutheran Church and this campaign with your prayers, your energy, and your financial resources. Our mutual support and the thoughtful giving of members will enable us to move boldly into the future. We are filled with excitement for what is ahead. Our campaign will not include pressure tactics, nor should your gift be given out of obligation. Our theme verse (2 Corinthians 9:7) reminds us of the joy that we receive in living generously. It is our prayer that each one of us will be blessed and encouraged in our faith as we respond to this campaign.

HOW DO I DECIDE HOW MUCH TO GIVE?

There is no exact formula. Only you and God know the answer to how much you should give. Invite God into the process and ask God to guide you in making your pledge. More than anything else, it is hoped you discover the joy and freedom of giving your best gift in this campaign.

OUR IMPACT



"I was at First Lutheran for the Christmas Eve service with our mother. This was my first time back since the new church had been built. What a first impression I had! Walking in through the main door, it looked so much larger than from the road. It was roomy, very welcoming, and it felt like home. There was music playing while we walked in from the parking lot, and friendly faces greeting and welcoming everyone to this beautiful building. The sanctuary was bright, the seating was comfortable and the screens made it very easy to enjoy the service. Again it felt like home. I know my father would have been very proud to walk into this church for the first time as I know we were. Thank you for making all feel so welcome." **—John Widmark**

"Thank you! You guys are awesome! The person who works with the food shelf just saw the donations and was practically in tears!! The adults are acting like kids at Christmas. They are excited to find space for everything. What you brought is almost 3 times as much as there was in the food shelf here."

—Donation to Runestone Learning Center Food Shelf

"Because of our space in the new building and ability to seat everyone, the funeral families are able to normally have almost everyone stay to fellowship with them afterwards. What a gift that is to a grieving family. This impact is felt by the Funeral Hospitality Teams, congregation and staff. What a blessing our new church space is!" **—First Lutheran member**

"This place just feels like home. We had a lot of history at the old building, so I'm just amazed by how quickly it's felt like home." **–Ruth Osterberg**

"Both of our kids went to Community Preschool for 2 years. We saw them grow so much, not only mentally, but also socially. The play-based structure allows them to learn and explore different things at their own pace and the teachers are amazing. Our daughter transitioned to kindergarten easily, and our son is really excited to go next year."
–Shaina Holtberg

"Thank you to the leadership team for the outdoor services this summer. I appreciate the energy, the atmosphere, and the messages. I don't think I have ever felt so comfortable at church. I am excited to go to church and proud to share the experience with others." **–Ben Miller**

"First Lutheran has graciously given our AA group a beautiful space to share the message of experience, strength and hope with those who struggle with addiction. Our group is growing and we feel blessed to have been provided this space where we can gather to support those who are seeking help." **–Rey Fugelstad**



BEYOND THE BUILDING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,
We are filled with love and gratitude for
your faithfulness. Guide us, that we might
have glad and generous hearts. Inspire
and use us to carry out your mission, that
we might make a difference in the world
around us, for the sake of Christ. Amen.

—
Loretta Lundy

*Freeing
ourselves to be
the church.*

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