

Campaign Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Question: When do I need to make this commitment? How long is the campaign?

Answer: Commitment Weekend includes a concert on Saturday, November 22, church service on Sunday, November 23. This is the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, a most appropriate time to make a promise to the Lord. The commitment for the Capital Campaign is three years. We will have commitment cards available starting this weekend. For those interested, including the December 2008 gift, the campaign timeframe allows for four tax years.

Question: What if I absolutely cannot give a sacrificial gift?

Answer: Then, please be a steward of what God has given you: enthusiasm, influence, hope, prayer, time and energy. Pray for your leaders, pastor, volunteers, and for this campaign. Speak positively. Encourage others.

Question: Is it okay to reduce my annual offering to give to this fund?

Answer: Please do not. Our ongoing ministries depend upon the annual offering for our general operating expenses. We do not want to undermine our current ministries with reduced giving because those ministries are vital in connecting people to Jesus.

Question: What should I give?

Answer: Good question! That's between you and God. *Your Story...My Story...HISStory!* is an opportunity for you to grow in your faith walk. The amount should represent something that is a spiritual decision and a spiritual challenge, not simply an afterthought or an obligation. In 2 Corinthians 8:7, Scripture challenges us to give first to God's work with passion and joy.

Question: How can I give to the campaign?

Answer: There are many ways you can contribute. Cash is the most obvious, but you can also give: real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, income tax refunds, irrevocable or revocable trusts—there are many other ways. Be creative!

Question: Who makes the financial decisions at our church and how are the fact reported?

Answer: The congregation approves the budget and empowers the ministry staff to utilize the church's resources. The Elder's review the budget monthly and evaluate.

Question: Isn't this a bad economic time to undertake a capital campaign?

Answer: Things are quite challenging for those who have experienced layoffs, job losses and salary cuts. Still, we go forward remembering two things: First, we give from what we have, not from what we lack. If the Lord is blessing you financially, then give faithfully. If you are out of work or lack resources now, then give when the Lord begins to give to you again. Second, God keeps his promise to bless the faithful in all they do. This promise holds regardless of the economy.

Question: What is the purpose of the Capital Campaign?

Answer: The purpose of the campaign includes a faith-building walk and a financial goal. After much prayer and counsel, we feel God is strongly calling us to create an environment that can reach out to our community in ways that meets their needs. Our prayer is that every person would consider how God has blessed them and make a heartfelt gift toward God's calling to our church.

Question: What's happening at St. John's Lutheran Church and School these days?

Answer: Many exciting things are happening at St. John's! We are reaching our Washington Park community and are growing in our relationship with each other and with Jesus Christ.

Question: What is the financial target?

Answer: We are praying that we can secure 3-year pledges that equal \$3.2 million. The community of St. John's has recognized that our youth, ages 18 months to 18 years old, are our future and need attention.

Question: Were our last campaigns successful?

Answer: Yes, they were! The funds raised in the 2000 campaign were about \$900,000. This campaign allowed us to add the Early Learning Center classroom, play court, the new school entrance and the Community Room. The 2003 BURO campaign raised approximately \$800,000. We were able to upgrade the

sanctuary with carpet, chairs, projects and screens; replace the school boiler and have the school roof repaired; and put funds toward our debt reduction.

You're probably wondering ...

what we are seeking to accomplish with the Capital Campaign...

At a recent congregational meeting a motion was made: *St. John's Lutheran Church will continue facility improvements as directed by the Facilities Committee to meet ministry needs with costs not to exceed the dedicated amount pledged/raised/borrowed in our 2008 Capital Campaign.*

Phase I	\$700,000
Youth Center and Cooling System	
Phase II	\$1,200,000
Cafeteria Expansion/Kitchen Remodel	
Phase III	\$1,000,000
Classroom Expansion & Remodel	
Phase IV	\$270,000
Site Improvements (Parking Lot/Playground)	
Phase V	\$80,000
Gym & Locker Room HVAC	

The congregation unanimously approved the motion as well as agreed that we will make Phase I the main priority. The other 4 phases will occur as funds allow and are not in any particular order of priority