



Zion Lutheran Church “Forward in Faith” Campaign

Questions and Answers Enrichment Gatherings – Spring 2009

Q: What is our “Forward in Faith” Campaign all about?

A: The “Forward in Faith” Stewardship Campaign is designed to focus our congregation on a deeper understanding of biblical stewardship and encourage each of us in Christian growth and commitment. Over the course of several months this spring, we will be inspired, informed and involved in a variety of programs such as Bible Studies, a Prayer Vigil, Enrichment Gatherings (small-group meetings), an All-Church Banquet, and other events. On Sunday, May 31st, we will be invited to make two pledges: a one-year commitment the annual ministry budget of Zion Lutheran, and a 3-year financial pledge, over and above our regular giving to our Capital Building Fund. The gifts received from our “Forward in Faith” Capital Campaign will help Zion pay for our building expansion and improvement projects. Pledges to the Capital Campaign may be paid as a one-time gift, or in weekly, monthly or annual contributions over the next three years.

Q: What will our project cost?

A: The projected cost for completing Phase I of our building expansion and improvement projects is estimated to be \$1,100,000. This amount is based on the architect’s estimates.

The Building Fund has accumulated approximately \$450,000 since 2000 which will be applied to Phase I construction; however, we hope to not only complete Phase I of construction, but also put aside funds that will enable us move forward on our Master Building Plan for the future. A successful capital campaign will allow us to build without incurring long-term debt, and provide seed money for future expansion.

Zion’s General Fund has a budget of about \$708,000 which was approved at our annual meeting.

Q: What is included in our building plans?

A: Our current building plans grow out of projects which were considered during our Centennial Campaign, and constitute Phase I of a larger Master Building Plan for future expansion of our church facilities. The three major components of Phase I include:

- Narthex Expansion (doubling our current welcoming space, renovating bathrooms, and improving fire safety by adding sprinklers)
- Office and Work Room Expansion (enlarging work space, and bringing Pastors’ and Staff Members’ offices together into one area)
- Kitchen Renovation (enlarged space with new appliances and fixtures)

Q: What are the next steps in our building process for Phase I?

A: Plans are currently being drawn for the Phase I projects, and soon bids will be invited. By June 2009, the congregation will hear a report on the outcomes of our “*Forward in Faith*” Capital Campaign. The congregation will vote on the plans as drawn by our architect for the project. This vote will be required in order to move the project from the campaign phase to the construction phase. Construction could begin as soon as late summer 2009.

Q: Why are we embarking on a Capital Campaign in the midst of poor economic conditions?

A: The theme for our campaign is “Forward in Faith.” It’s easy to place our faith in God when times are good, but when times aren’t so good, can we put that same faith in God? Our campaign is based on biblical principals, and the clear understanding the God provides for our every need in every circumstance. No one will be pressured to give; however, each of us will be invited to prayerfully consider a sacrificial financial commitment on behalf of the campaign, and the vital ministries served through Zion Lutheran. Each household’s circumstance is unique, and so the focus is on an equal level of sacrifice, not an equal amount. In other words, a sacrificial gift for one person may be very different from a sacrificial gift from another person.

The positive side of a slow economy is that interest rates are low, material costs are low, and labor is readily available. If we waited two or three years, we could expect our project costs to increase 15-20%.

**Q: How are pledges to the Building Fund structured?
What if my financial circumstances change?**

A: The three-year commitment to the Building Fund may be paid in weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual, or one-time gift increments. You, as the donor, will decide how best to complete your pledge.

Financial pledges are not legal obligations; however, it is anticipated that members will make their pledges in good faith, and will fulfill these fully. If circumstances change, you may revise your pledge by notifying Zion’s Financial Secretary.

Q: How can we be successful in achieving the goals of our “*Forward in Faith*” Campaign?

A: The financial goals for our campaign will represent an appropriately significant challenge for our church’s membership. Ours is the joyful opportunity to stretch ourselves to meet the current and future needs of Zion Lutheran Church. Congregations just like ours are typically able to raise between 1.5 and 3 times the level of their annual giving, gifted above and beyond the regular offering over a three-year period. (In other words, gifts above and beyond regular giving in the total amount of between \$900,000 and \$1,800,000 in our situation.) Even in the current economy, church’s are achieving these results.

We have been blessed by God as we continue to grow in our giving to the church. It is vital that we continue, and increase, our commitment to support our current worship, work, and witness. We also need to build a strong financial base for the purpose of funding our building construction needs.

To meet the financial goals of our capital campaign, each of us will also be asked to commit a generous and sacrificial gift **above and beyond** our regular giving.

Each of us is encouraged to prayerfully consider—and joyfully celebrate—the many blessings God has given us, and the capacity we have for giving and sharing generously. The choice is ours to freely commit that which has been entrusted to us. Seek God’s guidance as you consider these questions:

- To what extent does my giving truly reflect the value I have for this church?
- To what extent am I acting purposefully, intentionally, and faithfully in my giving?
- In what ways is my giving helping me grow in faith toward God, and in service to others?

Your support builds upon the generosity of those who have brought us thus far in the life of our church, and will help Zion move forward in its mission and ministry!

Q: What are we truly hoping to accomplish through our “*Forward in Faith*” Campaign?

A: For more than 100 years, Zion Lutheran Church has been a wonderful faith community devoted to Christian worship, education, fellowship, and witness. In order to fulfill our purpose, we dare not miss the opportunity to live out God’s call for us to “*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Christ commanded.*” (Matthew 28:19) Our campaign—and the growing ministry of Zion it will fund—are an investment in God’s mission for us. Our campaign honors those who have preceded us—those whose sacrifices have provided us with the wonderful church home we enjoy today. Our generous giving and faithful dedication will ensure a bright future filled with hope for Zion Lutheran, and will provide a vibrant place from which to minister to our community for years to come!