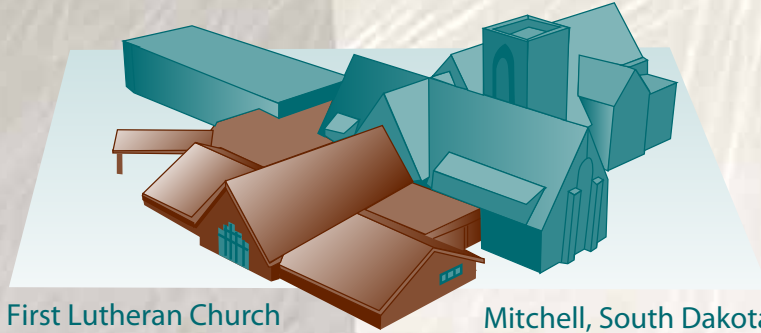


# GATHER AND GROW



First Lutheran Church

Mitchell, South Dakota

## *Completing Our Vision*



A Case Statement In Support  
Of Our Plans To  
Retire Our Debt and Further Enhance Our Facilities

**First Lutheran Church  
Mitchell, South Dakota**



*In 2007, First Lutheran Church launched a major initiative – our Gather and Grow Campaign – that had as its aim raising a minimum of \$1 million and ideally up to \$2 million to expand our facilities and provide improved accessibility to our facilities and much needed gathering, fellowship and education space. And through the prayerful volunteer and financial support of many and the extraordinary generosity of a few, we were able to succeed in our task. In fact, to-date we have raised a little over \$1.6 million which has allowed us to dramatically improve facility accessibility and complete our much needed and used canopied ground-level entrance that leads into our enlarged gathering and fellowship spaces, our beautiful new Family Life Center, all thanks to you, our generous members.*

*And while it may be easy and tempting to rest on our laurels, the work that we set out to do is not yet complete.*

*In fact, we still need to finish the lower level classrooms we planned, retire our building debt, improve the technology throughout our facility, finish the restoration of our organ and add to our parking and playground facilities. In short, we need to complete our original vision with Gather and Grow and do even more.*

# Our Needs

## Expanded Educational Facilities

We currently have very limited smaller group classroom facilities or places where the youth as well as the adults of our congregation can meet. We essentially have only large group meeting space which is not conducive to teaching and learning when smaller groups simultaneously meet.

## Debt Retirement

We also have a debt of \$480,000 that remains on the Family Life Center and Brick House mortgage that costs our church over \$120,000 a year in principle and interest expense, money that we would like and feel is better spent on expanding programs and ministries within and outside of our church community.

## Improved Technology Throughout Our Facility

Another goal of our Gather and Grow Committee that has yet to be accomplished in its entirety is to link the sanctuary and the Family Life Center as well as the church office and youth room with two-way audio and visual communications. This is especially needed when we have overflow crowds in our sanctuary.

## Organ Repairs/Restoration

The church has raised \$40,000 for organ restoration and initial repairs and upgrading are now complete. However, another \$50,000 is needed to complete this task. With the future of an almost half-million dollar musical instrument at stake, it is incumbent on the church to ensure the completion of this organ restoration so that the rich tradition of music ministry in our congregation can also be preserved and further enhanced.

## Expanded Parking and Playground Facilities

Adequate and available off-street parking also continues to be a problem at our church. Many people must still park on the street and walk a long way to reach our facilities. This dissuades some people from attending services and various events at our church and, especially in inclement weather, can also be unsafe. Our playground area must also be expanded to meet licensure requirements for our valuable day care program.

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*For we are God's  
co-workers;  
you are God's field,  
God's building.  
According to the  
grace of God given  
to me,  
like a wise master  
builder  
I laid a foundation,  
and another is  
building upon it."*

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*1 Corinthians 3:9-10*



# Our Plans

To meet these needs and complete our vision, we have what we believe is an exciting and essential plan. It calls for finishing the lower level classrooms as planned, retiring our building debt, improving our technology throughout our facility, finishing the restoration of our organ and adding to our parking and playground facilities.

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*“Without vision  
the people perish.”*

*Proverbs 29:10*

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## **Expanded Educational Facilities**

The lower level of our Family Life Center, which is now being completed through the help of a generous lead gift by one of our member donors, will feature two new large group and eight smaller classrooms when complete. And finally the youth and adults of our church will have more adequate places to learn and to meet.

## **Debt Retirement**

By retiring First Lutheran’s debt, we will save hundreds of thousands of dollars of interest expense. We can then redirect what we are currently paying in principle and interest to more worthy causes such as expanding and improving outreach and ministries that will benefit people within and outside of our church. It will also free funds that we need and can use to catch up on a variety of deferred maintenance projects as well as stay on top of future maintenance needs of the facilities that we now have and enjoy.

## **Organ Repairs/Restoration**

Our plan also includes raising the additional sums that are needed to fully complete the planned repairs and restoration of our wonderful organ so that future generations will be able to enjoy the heavenly music that it produces.

## **Expanded Parking and Playground Facilities**

And finally we also plan to remove the Brick House to provide for needed and desired additional off-street parking as well as expansion of our playground facilities required for the full licensure of our day care center.





# Our Campaign

To address these plans and needs we are initiating another intensive fundraising effort titled the *“Gather and Grow – Completing Our Vision”* campaign. Our aim with this important effort is to raise the funds needed to finish and fully pay for the completion of our class and meeting rooms on the lower level of our Family Life Center, retire our debt, complete our desired technology improvements to allow two-way audio and visual communications between various parts of our facilities, complete the organ restoration and planned additions to our parking and playground facilities.

To accomplish this task, we will need to minimally raise \$800,000 which we have set as our minimum goal.

**\$800,000**  
**Minimum Goal**

*“No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as you can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, God has bestowed on you.”*

*Deuteronomy  
16:10, 16-17*

## Levels of Support Needed to Succeed

In order to reach our financial objectives, we will need both a substantial number of givers and a few fairly substantial gifts.

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Minimum Need
\$ 100,000 or more	1	\$ 100,000
\$ 50,000 - 99,999	2	\$ 100,000
\$ 25,000 - 49,999	4	\$ 100,000
\$ 10,000 - 24,999	10	\$ 100,000
\$ 5,000 - 9,999	20	\$ 100,000
\$ 4,999 or less	173	\$ 300,000
Total	210	\$ 800,000

## Gift Options

All members are asked to consider gifts above and beyond what they give in their regular offerings and other contributions. And there is a variety of ways that gifts can be made.

- Long-term subscriptions, or pledges payable over 3 years, are easier for most and essential to meeting our goal, since it would be impractical, if not impossible, to reach our objectives with one-time, out-of-pocket gifts. Gifts may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments at the donor's discretion. A 10% initial investment toward your total pledge is requested.
- Non-cash gifts are an additional or alternative way you can support our cause. You may, for example, wish to consider gifts "in kind" such as labor and materials; or gifts of securities such as stocks and bonds; gifts of real estate or even personal property such as artwork, automobiles, jewelry and antiques.
- And finally, you can also choose to support our efforts through deferred gifts. These are gifts that can be given or arranged for now, but will not be received until later, and include gifts through a person's will by bequest, gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, and gifts in trust.

## Gift Opportunities

There are also a number of very special gift opportunities available to donors of qualifying gift amounts. These opportunities allow people the unique chance to designate their gifts to a particular part of the project and dedicate them in honor or memory of those they choose.

### Building Gift Opportunities

Family Life Center \$ 500,000

### Special Sections and Selections

Fellowship Hall	\$ 300,000
Gathering Space	\$ 100,000
Organ Restoration	\$ 100,000 *
Technology Improvements	\$ 80,000 *
Canopied Entrance	\$ 75,000
Kitchen (\$3,500 gifted)	\$ 75,000
Elevator	\$ 75,000
Youth/Quilter's Room	\$ 50,000
North Entrance	\$ 50,000
Nursery	\$ 30,000
Classrooms: (\$90,000 gifted)	
-Large (2) (1 gifted)	\$ 30,000 each
-Small (8) (2 gifted)	\$ 20,000 each
Southeast Parking Lot*	\$ 20,000
Playground*	\$ 15,000
West Sanctuary Entrance	\$ 10,000
Parking Spaces (45) (2 gifted)	\$ 2,000 each
SE Lot Parking Spaces *(10)	\$ 2,000 each

\*new opportunities since last campaign

*Prices of the stated items are not necessarily reflective of the component's cost. Rather they are based on the prominence of the item, our needs, and hopefully, the gift abilities of our community. Although payments for these gifts may be made over the entire pledge period, recognition will not be received until the gift is paid in full.*

## Gift Options

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*"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law."*

*Romans 13:8*

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# Pledge Plans

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

*1 Peter 4:10*

## (Three-Year Pledges)

Gift Level	Total Gift	(10%) Initial Investment	Daily *	Weekly *	Payment Plans			
					(36) Monthly	(12) Quarterly	(6) Semi-Annually	(3) Annually
Pacesetter	\$2,000,000	\$200,000	\$1,644	\$11,538	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
	1,000,000	100,000	822	5,769	25,000	75,000	150,000	300,000
	750,000	75,000	616	4,327	18,750	56,250	112,500	225,000
	500,000	50,000	411	2,885	12,500	37,500	75,000	150,000
	250,000	25,000	206	1,442	6,250	18,750	37,500	75,000
	100,000	10,000	82	577	2,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
	75,000	7,500	62	433	1,875	5,625	11,250	22,500
	50,000	5,000	41	288	1,250	3,750	7,500	15,000
	40,000	4,000	33	231	1,000	3,000	6,000	12,000
	30,000	3,000	25	173	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
25,000	2,500	21	144	625	1,875	3,750	7,500	
Major	20,000	2,000	16.44	115	500	1,500	3,000	6,000
	15,000	1,500	12.33	87	375	1,125	2,250	4,500
	10,000	1,000	8.22	58	250	750	1,500	3,000
	5,000	500	4.11	29	125	375	750	1,500
Community	4,000	400	3.29	23	100	300	600	1,200
	3,000	300	2.47	17	75	225	450	900
	2,000	200	1.64	12	50	150	300	600

\* These figures are provided for illustration purposes only. To minimize costs, suggested payment plans include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments.