

# Campaign Messenger

Gather and Grow

March 25, 2007

## Campaign Announced

We are pleased to announce today the launching of a very special campaign here at First Lutheran Church. It's entitled the "Gather and Grow" Campaign and has as its aim, raising the funds required to build an addition onto our church facilities, a Family Life Center which will include a new gathering space and fellowship hall as well as new Sunday School Classrooms. Also, there will be improvements made to help make our facilities more accessible to everyone by creating more accessible entrances and exits and installing a new elevator.

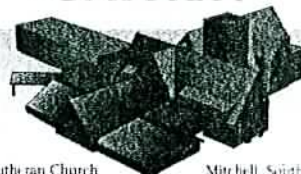
Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$1,000,000 over a period of 3 years, which will help us to meet these special needs. The campaign will officially commence with a special "Kick-Off Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m. and will culminate on Sunday, May 22 - Commitment Sunday - where members will be asked to indicate their gift commitments.

The pages that follow provide additional details

about our needs, our plans and our campaign.

Through the prayerful, volunteer and financial support of many, we will succeed in our task and in so doing, help to make First Lutheran Church an even better place to go and grow in God's name.

GATHER



First Lutheran Church

Mitchell, South Dakota

And Grow

## Campaign Cabinet Enlisted

Our campaign leadership or "cabinet" have now been enlisted. This core group of leaders will give guidance to and drive the campaign.

Serving as overall Chairpersons are Keith and Glynn Bartels, and Steve and Kathy Otterby, who will assume primary responsibility for the Advance Gifts Team and phase of the campaign and Doug and Geri Beck, who will oversee the Community Gifts Team and phase.

In addition, we have also been blessed with an excellent supporting cast who are tasked with leadership of the various special support committees needed. They are Earl Vandever and Jeff Clark, who will lead the Communications Team; Sharon Scott and Phyllis Bush, who will lead the team for Hospitality and Special Events; Dorla Verhey and Norma Rew, who will lead our team for Spiritual Direction and Rube Adams, who will lead our team for Creative Giving.

Many more leaders and workers are also needed to help with this important effort, so please say "yes" to volunteering when you are asked!

## Our Needs

Our facilities are aging, and with the current population growth in the area, we are bursting at the seams. This presents us with challenges that we must address if we are to continue to minister to God's people and offer a welcoming, safe, accessible environment to all.

### Fellowship Hall Space Needs

The current Fellowship Hall is located in the church basement and accessible mainly through steep and cramped stairways. This is inconvenient for most and almost impossible to access for those members with physical limitations. The hall itself is too small to host the functions our growing church community needs, and the current kitchen is inadequate. It is also unsuitable to serve as an area to meet and greet one another before or after services because of its accessibility issues. This lack of accessibility inhibits many members – especially our elderly – from fully and freely participating in many of our church activities and ministries.

### Gathering Space Needs

The Glass lobby currently serving as our gathering space is too small to serve in this capacity for our growing congregation. As people are leaving the first service, others are trying to enter through the

same small space. The congestion caused by this inhibits people from fostering fellowship between our members and visitors to our church. In addition, it makes entering and exiting the sanctuary difficult and creates an "unwelcome atmosphere" that isn't the nature of our church. Moreover, in order to enter the sanctuary people have to use narrow steps which make it difficult for many to use the lobby as an access to our facilities. In order to build the more closely connected and committed community we desire, we need an easily accessible and ample space for members to meet and greet one another after services or to gather before or after weddings, funerals or other sacred events.

### Classroom Needs

Our current classroom space is also severely limited and located in different areas of the complex. Sunday school enrollment is up. Right now there are over 265 students enrolled, and that number is increasing. Last year alone there were 30 baptisms, and nearly 30 new families joined our congregation. With the increase in Sunday school participation as well as the increase in youth and adult Sunday school classes, we have outgrown all of the space that was set aside for this very purpose. Without an increase in classroom space soon, we will be severely limited in our ability to educate our

children, youth and adults in our faith.

### Accessibility Issues

Scripture clearly communicates that "the world will know we are Christians by our love" for each other. How we treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ is significant to our faith. Yet the current configuration of entrances and exits in and out of our church facilities as well as within our church facilities inhibit many from fully participating in the life of our church. The east entrance of the church, once used by most, is no longer the primary entrance mostly because only "on street parking" is available. Currently the west entrance has become the main entrance, but as stated earlier, this area is crowded and too small for our current facilities.

Additionally, our elevator is no longer adequate either in size or reliability. It frequently breaks down and is too small and cramped to accommodate our members or visitors in wheelchairs, thus making it difficult, if not impossible, for these members to participate in the fellowship opportunities in our church. It is also not in line with how our church wants and needs to serve and care for everyone in our church family and others who visit our complex.

## Our Plans

To address these critical needs, we have an exciting plan:

### Family Life Center (New Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space)

Our plan calls for constructing a new and easily accessible, ground level fellowship hall at the south end of our existing church building. It will include a new kitchen to serve our congregation and visitors and will be able to seat nearly 300 people for various church functions such as space for alternative worship, receptions, funeral luncheons and other special events. Its location on the main floor of the church building, just adjacent to the chapel and sanctuary, will enable it to be accessible by everyone. This new Family Life Center will also enable our congregants to mingle in fellowship, meet and greet one another and visitors to our church and build stronger relationships and connections with people over coffee and other refreshments in a warm and welcoming environment.

### Increased Classroom Space

Adding the new fellowship hall will also allow us to build needed classroom space to serve our growing congregation. Several

classrooms will be built in the new fellowship hall's lower level. We also plan to relocate a classroom that is currently situated on the main floor on the church's east side to the upper level. These additional classrooms will provide us with ample space for our growing congregation and allow us to properly serve and educate our Sunday school students as well as our youth and adults.

### Addressing Accessibility Issues

We will also be adding a new, reliable and larger elevator that will provide access to all three levels of the church. In addition, we will be adding a main floor entrance to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and gathering space on the southwest side of the current church. This will provide a larger and more centralized access to the sanctuary. Our current glass lobby, which now serves as our main gathering area, will continue to serve as an entrance to the facilities, but the floor will be raised to provide for easier access accessibility to our facilities.

### Other Improvements

The addition of the new Fellowship Hall allows us to further improve our facilities in new and exciting ways.

We plan to continue to use the current fellowship hall as a youth room for confirmation and other youth activities as well as an area for other social functions such as quilting gatherings.

The nursery will be moved from the upper level of the church to the main floor making it more accessible to parents and easier to access from the sanctuary.

A canopied entrance and drop-off area at the entrance to the new Family Life Center will provide easier access for people with limited physical abilities as well as shelter from inclement weather.



## Our Campaign

To address our needs and plans we are initiating an intensive fund raising effort titled the "Gather and Grow" campaign. Our aim with this important effort is to raise the funds required to construct a new Family Life Center which will include a gathering space/fellowship hall and new classrooms, increase accessibility to our facilities and install a new elevator.

Our minimum goal is \$1,000,000 which will enable us to begin construction on the project. An ultimate goal of \$2,000,000 has also been set which, if met, will enable us to

finish the project with little or no debt.

The campaign will officially commence with a "Campaign Kickoff Celebration" scheduled for Sunday, April 22. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. The campaign will culminate on Sunday, May 20 - a special day that we're calling "Commitment Sunday," when campaign volunteers will be visiting with members at or after services, in their homes and/or by phone to explain our efforts, answer questions and invite your investments.

**Goals:**  
**Minimum**  
**\$1,000,000**  
**Ultimate**  
**\$2,000,000**

## How You Can Help

In preparation for this important event, we ask that you do three important things.

First, please pray for our campaign's success. Our future depends on your prayers.

Second, please volunteer your time to the campaign effort. Over 120 volunteers will be needed to assure that the

campaign runs as efficiently and effectively as possible and that the job of volunteering is a relatively easy and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Finally, please consider a generous financial contribution to the campaign. Long-term subscriptions, or pledges payable over 3 years

in addition to your annual stewardship offerings are encouraged and essential to meeting our ongoing operating expenses and this special project need.

Your support will assure our campaign's and church community's future success!

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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."*

1 Corinthians 3:9-10