

Hope for Years to Come

Preparing for the Future by Eliminating our Debt

“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.”

Isaiah 40:31

Our Savior’s Rich History of Ministry – The LORD *with* us!

From our beginning in 1965, God has blessed the growth of Our Savior's ministry through the continued expansion of our building and staff. Since 2003 our congregation has faithfully and generously responded to the Lord’s grace by going above their regular annual giving through three capital appeals to make this possible. In addition, we received three significant extraordinary gifts. This history of congregational generosity and special gift support is a record of God's faithfulness towards us:

- 1. 2003-2006: Rooted and Growing in Christ:** Raised \$430K to reduce sanctuary debt and increase pastoral staff, adding Staff Minister Hering to the pastoral staff; called Jamie Luehring as principal to replace him. \$95 K debt remained.
- 2. 2006-2009: Rooted and Growing Stronger in Christ:** Raised \$460K & received \$540K in extraordinary gifts toward \$2.25 M Family Life Center (gym, classrooms, lobbies), which was dedicated in December, 2008. \$1.3 M in accumulated debt remained.
- 3. 2009-2012: Growing and Going in Christ & a Tough 2011:** Raised \$250K & received \$180K in extraordinary gifts to gradually absorb our \$120,000/year debt service payments on our \$1.25 M, 20 year mortgage into our operating budget by 2014. In 2011 several of our lead donors moved from the area. This resulted in a \$200,000 drop in annual congregational giving, which we compensated for by scaling back our school staff and our ministry plan. Even so we accumulated a \$62,000 operating budget deficit, which we covered by spending down special funds which were dedicated to paying off the mortgage.
- 4. 2010: Beautification of the Sanctuary:** \$250K foundation gift to beautify our sanctuary, with one goal - to SEE Jesus in our worship. The remodeled sanctuary was dedicated in October, 2010.

2012-2015: REST from Capital Appeals: No formal capital appeal. We asked members to transfer previous appeal giving into their operating fund giving as we continued to pursue our goal of absorbing our \$1.15 M mortgage into our annual operating budget. During these challenging times we revamped both our pastoral and school staff, however, we have cut our operating cash reserves in half.

Hope for Ministry to Come – The LORD *for* us!

Our theme for this 50th Anniversary celebration year is from a familiar hymn, “O God, our help in ages past; our hope for years to come.” (Christian Worship #441) God is not just with us. God is FOR US! He has given his one and only Son as a sacrifice so that whoever believes will be saved (John 3:16). And from that concept we begin to look ahead to tomorrow and next year and the next five years to an equally rich future of active ministry and a growing intensity of mission-minded purpose.

Hindrance to Ministry - the \$1.2 Million Debt Blocks Expansion of our Staff and Ministry.**

Right now we are scheduled to spend \$102,000 a year for the next 18 years to pay for the debt service on our mortgage – money that could instead be used for active, expanding ministry. This amounts to nearly 18% of our annual giving. Can you imagine how this money might be used if we could redirect it into ministry? We can't keep running deficits. We only have \$200,000 left in special funds to cover our current \$65,000 annual deficits, which will be exhausted in 3 years. Then we'd likely be faced with difficult decisions such as ministries or even staff. We pray that this isn't an option we need to consider!

Now is the Time to Move Ahead into Ministry – The LORD *through* us!

If we raise \$1.2 Million in three years we can:

- Be debt free for the first time in 20 years;
- Increase our operating budget by \$102K a year in 3 years, an 18% increase;
- Save \$525,000 or more in interest costs, which can be redirected to expanded ministry;
- Balance our deficit budget;
- Plan our next phase of ministry development;
- Continue to strengthen our Elementary school and keep our faculty balanced.

Hope for Years to Come and Our Current Call To Commitment

The goal of "Hope for Years to Come" is to eliminate as much of our \$1.2 Million debt as possible through a process of prayer and sacrifice. To eliminate the full \$1.2 Million will require raising \$400K a year for 3 years! In our last two capital campaigns we've only averaged \$150K a year for 3 years. We need a 166% increase over our previous two appeals! To do this will require two things: first, that every household in our church participate in the appeal; second, that every household participate in the appeal in the most important way, by praying, more particularly, by praying this prayer on a daily basis:

"Dear Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your purpose for our church? Help me discern a sacrifice for this campaign that is meaningful and joyful."

Pray for OUR ministry. The need is great. Pray about your specific role and your specific commitment to OUR ministry. We need every household to participate in this prayer and sacrifice. But remember, the amount doesn't matter. What matters is what God does in our hearts; giving up something important for something more important. If we do this together we know that God will multiply our loaves and fishes and accomplish far more than we could even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). The LORD renews our strength so that we can soar on his wings of faith and hope and love (1 Corinthians 13:13)!

***the \$1.2 Million includes our current \$1.1 Million debt, plus 3 years of interest costs until the debt is eliminated plus appeal expenses*