



Reaching, Serving & Growing Disciples!

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March 25, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Seven years ago we were over \$2M in debt, there were no called senior or associate pastors on staff, the school had a part-time principal and part-time teachers in a couple classrooms, enrollment was low, and the early childhood center was struggling. Since then:

- we're up over 200 Baptized members;
- we have had a full-time senior pastor and vicar/associate pastor serving together for over six years;
- we have a full time principal who is about to finish her colloquy to be a rostered LCMS church worker;
- grade school enrollment is now at about 160 students;
- there are full-time teachers in every classroom;
- we renovated the school's gym;
- the Early Childhood Center is doing well;
- our Lord's Cupboard food pantry serves an increasingly vital part of overall community efforts to show Christ's mercy;
- a marriage ministry was begun that had 25 couples at the last retreat;
- we celebrated our 150th anniversary with style and dedicated a brand new \$100,000 organ;
- we've paid off some \$800,000 in debt and--along the way--played a part in building a brand new Lutheran school in the Dominican Republic, strengthened ties with the Lutheran High School Association, and cooperated with other churches in beginning a new ministry to homeless families in western Waukesha Co.
- the list could go on...

Certainly, we have challenges. (Didn't Jesus and the apostles tell us that would be so?) In the midst of these challenges, as we prayerfully engage in a renewed strategic planning process for our 155th anniversary, it is good to remember where we were, and where we are... and give thanks to God.

Last fall we closed the 150th anniversary Free to Serve capital campaign. (A summary is attached on the back of this letter.) There is a lot for which to give thanks. Let's do that as we—in faith—embrace the challenges before us.

Yours in Christ,

Pete Sheild, Free to Serve Chairman

Rev. Lance O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Free-to-Serve Capital Campaign*

as of Feb 25, 2019

<u>Campaign Pledges</u>	<u>\$1,119,970</u>
<u>Pledges Received</u>	<u>\$699,030</u>
<u>Distributions</u>	<u>\$673,743</u>
<i>Mortgage Payments</i>	\$558,283
<i>Lutheran High School Assoc.</i>	\$33,687
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	\$16,844
<i>Family Promise</i>	\$16,844
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses**</i>	\$48,085
<u>Account Balance</u>	<u>\$25,287</u>

**Campaign ran Sep 1, 2015 thru Aug 31, 2018*

***Consulting Fees, brochures, etc.*

***100% of pledges received after 8/31/18 will go towards reducing the mortgage*