

hear...live...share...grow



...together with God's Word

capital appeal

Saint John Lutheran Church

Lord, *what would you
do through me to accomplish
your perfect will through
Saint John Lutheran Church?*



dear friends,

We are counting on you to help us make a difference in our *hear...live...share...grow* Capital Appeal.

We have continued to deepen our ministries. We have continued to reach increasing numbers of folks with the love of Jesus. We are making disciples. We are letting our light shine. Yes, God is working through us to advance His Kingdom.

It's because the Lord has blessed Saint John's ministries that I, as your pastor, wrestle with questions such as: "How can we continue to reach additional seekers.... how can we continue to invite our friends and neighbors into Christian fellowship.....how can we disciple more children? The reality is—our mission will be stifled if we don't step out in faith and obedience and upgrade our facilities.

Our *hear...live...share...grow* campaign addresses our current limitations. Our faithful charter members charted a bold course some 120 years ago. Anointed by the Holy Spirit, they stepped out in faith and started

worshipping every Sunday. Folks knocked on doors. They cooked coffee, set up chairs, invited their neighbors. Actually, three or four generations have 'dug deep' and have sacrificially given of themselves again and again—building, renovating and retrofitting-- so we can enjoy our present facilities.

Many of those families are still with us and have made it clear that they plan to give generously once again so we can continue improving our mission. May their vision, passion, dedication and steadfastness inspire all of us to 'step up to the plate' and do whatever it takes to 'put the shovel in the ground' later this year!

I believe, from the bottom of my heart, that the Church of Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. I am convinced that the greatest enterprise on planet earth is Christ's Church. That's why I'm asking you to carefully read all of the materials in the appeal mailings. Study..... discuss.....share.....and then pray, pray, pray! Pray that the Lord will give you a deep peace about what He would have you do to guarantee the success of this *hear...live...share...grow* appeal.

Please note the special events scheduled during the next two months. I challenge you to place highest priority on joining us. I'm counting on you! You will make a difference!

Thank you for your partnership in this mission,

Pastor Jon

dates to remember

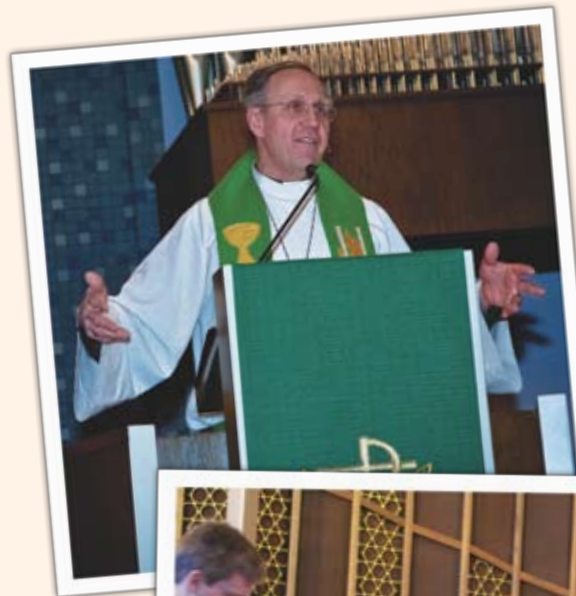
Kick-off Weekend \ Sunday, February 21 \ all services

Leadership Circle Event \ Tuesday, March 2 \ 6:30 pm

Mission Fest \ Sunday, March 7 \ all services

Prayer Vigil \ Thursday, March 25

Commitment Sunday \ Sunday, March 28 \ all services



our story

120 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

It could well be that we will be celebrating our 120th anniversary simultaneously with dedicating our new facilities to the glory of God! We have been privileged to minister to the greater Council Bluffs area for 120 years. What a journey it has been! Peaks and valleys...triumphs and heartaches... victories and failures...joys and sorrows—this is our story. This is our history.

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

We have been served by many, many faithful pastors and lay staff who all walked with 'feet of clay' and yet strived to tell the story of Jesus and His love. Hundreds of 'saints' have come and gone. Each lived and served by the grace of God alone. And, each made marks upon our community of faith.

A FAITHFUL GOD

When all is said and done, we are here today because of the steadfast faithfulness of God revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ. Our Lord has been with us every step of the way. He has been our good shepherd—guiding, inspiring, correcting, empowering, forgiving, calling and sending. What a savior! What a friend!

A HOPE-FILLED FUTURE

As we, the people of Saint John, move into the second decade of the 21st century, we do so with great enthusiasm, optimism, and hope. We believe God has not brought us this far to let us down. We believe the future is as bright as the promises of God. And, we believe God has given the people of Saint John everything needed to do God's perfect will—today!

Yes, we are here today because of the 120 years of God's faithfulness and the steadfastness of many saints who have gone before us. Indeed, we stand on the shoulders of past generosity. We stand on the shoulders of Christ-followers who bet their lives on growing Christ's kingdom.

THE CHALLENGE

The question for you and me is: are we up to the challenge of positioning Saint John for radical mission in the 21st century? Are we up to leaving a legacy for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren so that our children have faith and our faith has children?



now to him *who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*

Ephesians 3:20-21

our vision

THE NEED IS THE CALL

Here we are—2010—Council Bluffs, Iowa. The torch has been passed to us. We stand at a precipice. Like those who have gone before us, we continue to believe the Church of Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. We believe there is no greater enterprise on planet earth than Christ's Church.

While we acknowledge the Church is people...living stones... we are also in agreement that we need warm, attractive, inviting spaces to 'house' the people God sends us. Welcoming facilities are necessary to 'facilitate' the ministries to God's people.

Every week, some 600 folks pass through our doors—looking to us to assist them in their faith journey and to equip them for service to the world. While we are doing a fine job of ministering to us who are part of the Saint John family, we are also aware that well over half our community is un-churched. They don't have a spiritual home. To use the words of Jesus, they are 'lost', and lost people matter to God.

but who am I, *and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*

I Chronicles 29:14

UPGRADED FACILITIES WILL FACILITATE A THRIVING MINISTRY

Our Building Committee has been hard at work for close to four years. They have listened. They have prayed. They have studied. They have sought outside counsel. Now, in collaboration with the Church Council and Capital Appeal Team, they recommend moving forward with the following capital improvement priorities:

- Create a new, inspiring, inviting MAIN ENTRANCE to our facility. Healthy congregations know the value of making a positive statement to the community through its architecture—especially the MAIN ENTRANCE. If we are to grow in our effectiveness of reaching the un-churched population, we need to be increasingly intentional of how we say WELCOME—even through our architecture!
- Create a bright, spacious, hospitable GATHERING SPACE for hundreds of folks transitioning in and out of worship. Healthy congregations understand the value of large fellowship/ gathering/ connecting spaces. In areas like Iowa (with long winters), such space IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVANGELISM SPACE IN THE ENTIRE CHURCH.
- Construct new, spacious classrooms/conference spaces for all ages
- Create bright, new, handicap-accessible rest rooms. Lyle Schaller, renowned church expert, contends that the two most important rooms in any church are the women's rest room and the nursery!
- Address deferred maintenance issues related to heating, air conditioning, electrical, fire sprinkling, and parking.
- Acquire Micah property to provide additional off-street parking
- Fully fund for the next three years a full-time professional in Youth and Family Ministries.
- Retire existing debt.

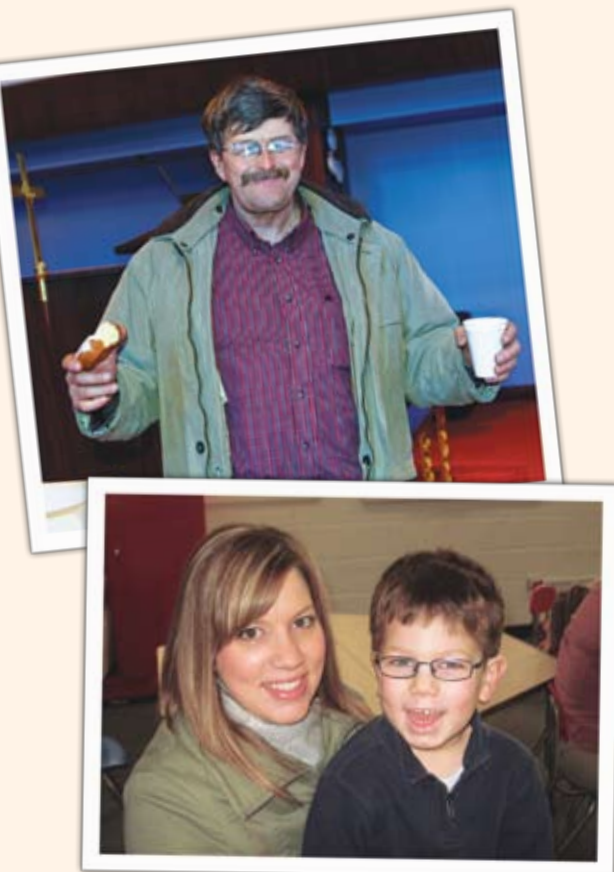


THE COST OF OUR VISION

Main Entrance	\$ 230,000
Gathering Space	\$ 200,000
Class Rooms	\$ 810,000
Rest Rooms	\$ 145,000
Heat/AC/Elec/Parking	\$ 1,555,000
Acquire Micah Property	\$ 350,000
Youth & Family Minister	\$ 150,000
Eliminate Existing Debt	\$ 100,000



Floor plan renderings courtesy of:
 JACKSON-JACKSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.



frequently asked questions

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING A CAPITAL FUND APPEAL AT THIS TIME?

Since 1891, Saint John has served the greater Council Bluffs area by opening its doors to the community. Over the years, we have undertaken a variety of facility expansions and improvements—including a new sanctuary, administrative offices, lounge and tower in 1966-67; then the creation of the Hering Hall in the 1970's. Today we are at a crossroads. We are committed to faithfully serving the “saints” who, for decades, have considered Saint John to be their church home. At the same time, we have passion for welcoming the “next generations” into our faith community. If we are to be effective in engaging increasing numbers of newcomers, it is critical that we take into account the role of facilities in either attracting or discouraging “the stranger”. We believe we are both good stewards and good leaders by moving forward with the upgrades outlined in this document.

WHY DID WE HIRE KAIROS AND ASSOCIATES?

Kairos is a consulting firm with proven experience in guiding many churches in our region through successful capital fund appeals. They understand us as a congregation and join us as partners in faith, committed to developing an appeal that is focused on the vision and mission of Saint John.

HOW DOES MY RESPONSE TO HEAR...LIVE...SHARE...GROW AFFECT MY SUPPORT OF CURRENT EXPENSES AND BENEVOLENCE?

It shouldn't. Contributions will be separate from, and in addition to, regular ongoing giving to support annual ministries and operating expenses. It is important that current levels of giving be maintained.

HOW CAN I DECIDE WHAT TO GIVE?

First of all, pray, pray, pray! Let the Lord have his way in your finances. Then read carefully all the materials we provide for you. We commit ourselves to giving you accurate, relevant information to assist you in your decision-making. Plan on giving a gift that is born out of faith...big enough to stretch you and take your breath away. This is the only way to fully feel the joy of giving and growing in Christ.

MAY I GIVE STOCKS, REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE, OR OTHER GIFTS-IN-KIND, IN ADDITION TO CASH GIFTING?

Absolutely! For many people, appreciated assets or non-cash resources are a wise way to fund a gift to charity. Creative Giving guides are available to assist you, or our Kairos consultant, Pastor Blair Anderson, can help you explore creative options. Contact him at 612-207-1151.

HOW WILL I BE CONTACTED FOR MY RESPONSE?

All people of Saint John will receive a response packet in the mail in mid-March. This packet will contain materials needed to return your completed Letter of Intent to church at one of our Commitment Worship services on Sunday, March 28.

HOW LONG WILL MY COMMITMENT CONTINUE?

Unless otherwise arranged, the giving period is for three years beginning April 1, 2010, through March 31, 2013. Gifts can be given in a number of ways; however, immediate, advance gifts to help us cover existing short-falls are greatly appreciated.

WHAT IF MY FINANCIAL SITUATION CHANGES, OR I MOVE OUT OF THE AREA BEFORE I HAVE COMPLETED MY GIFT?

We know that circumstances can change. If you find that you wish to pay up, increase, decrease or cancel your hear...live...share...grow commitment, please contact the church office.

IS IT WISE TO CONDUCT A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DURING SUCH UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC TIMES?

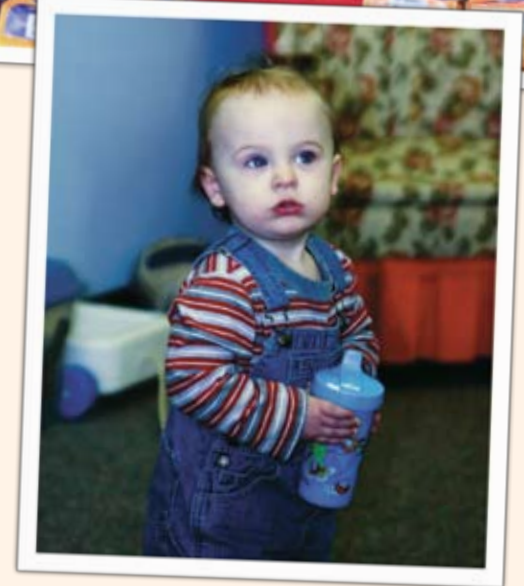
Interestingly enough, the Church of Jesus Christ has tended to flourish during challenging times in history. Christ-followers have always believed that the Church is the hope of the world.....that there is no greater enterprise on planet earth than Christ's Church. Tough times have tended to draw God's people back to the most important things in life. We at Saint John believe in 'equal sacrifice'—not 'equal gifts.' In other words, people cannot give what they do not have. Some of our families have fallen on difficult times and should not be expected to give much. Conversely, others of us have been greatly blessed and have significant capacities to support the hear...live...share...grow capital campaign.

Practically Speaking: We believe we are in the midst of a very favorable construction market. We should anticipate very competitive construction bids—due to the sluggish building economy. Interest rates are reasonable. And we know that waiting a few years will only subject us to building inflationary pressures (higher price tags on everything we do).

CAN I REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Absolutely! No gift is too small or too big. All gifts are significant. Consider the following scenarios:

- 1 family giving \$1 million = \$ 1,000,000
- 2 families giving \$ 250,000 = \$ 500,000
- 3 families giving \$ 100,000 = \$ 300,000
- 5 families giving \$ 50,000 = \$ 250,000
- 20 families giving \$ 25,000 = \$ 500,000
- 20 families giving \$ 15,000 = \$ 300,000
- 20 families giving \$ 10,000 = \$ 200,000
- 20 families giving \$ 7,800 = \$ 156,000
- 20 families giving \$ 6,240 = \$ 124,800
- 20 families giving \$ 4,680 = \$ 93,600
- 20 families giving \$ 3,120 = \$ 62,400



if you have *other questions or concerns, the names and contact information for the Capital Appeal Team, Church Council and Building Committee are listed on the back cover*

thank you, carol marie murray

Carol Murray died on August 9, 2009 leaving a legacy gift of \$673,000 to Saint John Lutheran Church. Carol taught twelfth grade English at Abraham Lincoln High School for 33 years. Carol was known as a quiet, reserved, humble soul who worshiped regularly at Saint John since 1952. Carol's Church and her Lord were central to her life.

Carol's unrestricted legacy gift will be used in its entirety "To the Glory of God" in our building program. May her generosity inspire all of us to embrace ever deeper levels of sacrificial, joyous generosity.



contact information

For questions or concerns that need addressing, please contact one of people listed below:

Capital Appeal Team

GENERAL CO-CHAIRS

Ruth Benson (Honorary) 712-308-2312
Patricia Minchin** 712-323-0292
Scott Hartman** 712-323-9699

ADVANCE GIFTS CO-CHAIRS

Carol Wood** 712-325-1051
Gary Woods** 712-322-2288

EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Bruce and Joni Rasmussen 712-256-0848
John Rinde 712-366-5528

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Church Council

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