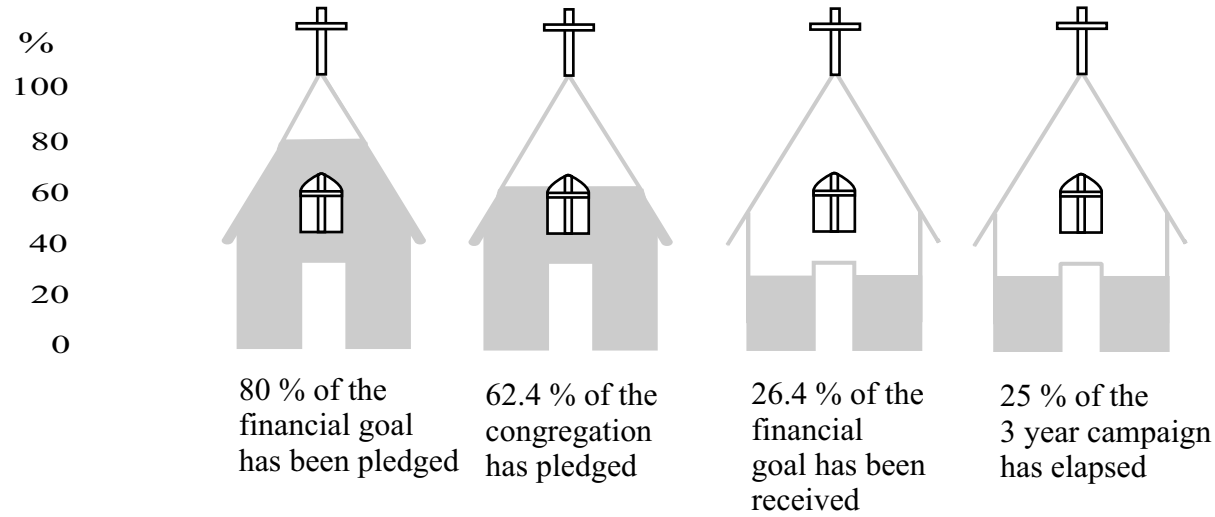


Campaign Statistics



You can still make pledges or make an additional pledge! Pledge cards are on the table in the lobby or in the church office.

- Keep Saturday Nov. 12, 2005 open for the Capital Campaign Anniversary Celebration.



Quarterly Capital Campaign Update September 2005 Newsletter

GROWING IN MINISTRY, BUILDING TO SERVE *(And doing it with Joy!)*

Jesus said, "my church shall be an energetic and expansive church- and nothing shall prevail against it." (The Message Translation of the Bible). As I said in an August sermon, Good Shepherd is Jesus' church. We are called to be faithful participants in that church, continually living out Christ's ministry with passion and energy, always helping to expand the kingdom.

As for being an "energetic" church, we are most certainly "Growing in Ministry". Our worship attendance continues to increase, and more people are ready to join the church. A "Purpose Driven" discussion group will begin in October, a "Spiritual Gifts Discernment" group is in the works for early 2006, plans for the next "servant trips" are already emerging, and our Internet ministry continues to expand and reach several hundred people on a daily basis.

On the issue of being an expansive church, we are plowing ahead. We are in the midst of a vast mission field that needs churches that have "hearts and facilities" big enough to welcome newcomers into the life of the church. The facility issue is a key one and I can't wait for us to begin work on a new, expanded, and renovated facility that will enhance our ministry in countless ways.

Moving toward construction is a process in which all of us have a role. The congregation is offering financial support to the Growing in Ministry, Building to Serve campaign. Keep it up. It is a visible sign of ongoing support and helps show the banks our strong commitment to build. The Finance Committee is submitting applications to several lenders, so we should soon know how much of a loan we could secure. Finally, our Building Committee has continued to discuss the "concept" drawings that were presented to the congregation last fall. As we ponder our future worship environment, we want to make sure that we provide worship space that has good quality seats for all, promotes a greater sense of intimacy, provides flexibility for multiple styles of worship and leaves room for our congregation to grow in the years to come.

Keep your eyes and ears open for discussion opportunities in the days to come.

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

"God can do anything, you know-far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his spirit deeply and gently within us."
Ephesians 3:20

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE - Ernie Kessler, Chairman

The Building Committee is focusing on the worship space that will be part of our new facilities. The conceptual drawings that were presented to the congregation call for upgrading and expanding the current sanctuary in its present location. We are questioning whether the proposed changes will provide sufficient worship space for a congregation that will likely have 600 worshipers on a typical Sunday morning in the near future. As alternatives to the conceptual drawing plan for the sanctuary, we are considering two alternatives: 1) upgrading the current sanctuary and providing high quality overflow seating in the fellowship hall with state-of-the-art video and sound feeds that will create a sense of sanctuary presence in the overflow area or 2) moving the sanctuary to the area of the fellowship hall and converting the current sanctuary into fellowship space. In this second option, the organ and stained glass windows would be moved and the seating would be flexible to accommodate functions in addition to Sunday morning worship. When we have developed a clear understanding how the sanctuary choice impacts our total facilities improvement project, we will be communicating with the congregation and seeking input.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER - Vicki Schmidt

What an exciting time this is in the life of our church! Already 236 of the 378 giving units have pledged to support the Capital Campaign, with an additional 43 households having made offerings. The prayerful and generous support of these members accounts for \$1.2 million in pledged contributions to be received from 2004 through 2007. Each gift will be used to expand the facility, to advance the ministry and, ultimately, glorify God! The faithful stewardship of the gifts that God has first given to each of us will bring joy to many and will contribute to the future of our church for generations to come. Offerings can be made weekly, monthly, annually, or as a one-time gift. Approximately 20 households are even making contributions by selling shares of stock. Again this fall, we ask that you prayerfully consider the role you are willing and able to play in support of the Capital Campaign. If you have any questions about how you might share your financial gifts, please feel free to call me at the church office. God bless you!

STATUS OF FINANCING EFFORTS - Kevin Anderson

Earlier this year the Council created an ad hoc working group for the purpose of securing construction financing for the proposed building improvements. The group consists of Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Gary Bowman, Chair of the Finance Committee, Vicki Schmidt, Business Manager, Gil Price, a Council member, and myself. We identified five commercial

banks and the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA as prospective lenders. Meetings with the lenders began this spring. It quickly became apparent that prospective lenders would be requesting a significant amount of information regarding our historical finances, and projected finances, membership, worship attendance, organization and staff. We are in the final stages of assembling that information, and will be going back to the prospective lenders within the next month.

We expect that, once all of the requested information has been prepared and submitted, we will have a series of meetings with the banks and the Fund. Following that, the institutions can be expected to respond within weeks of receiving our final information, and we will then have a recommendation to present to the Council.

Once approved by the Council, the final proposal for borrowing will be brought to the entire congregation for its approval at a special meeting.

PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP - Gordon B. Lamb

The whole stewardship process provides us with an opportunity to arrange our assets so that we can help others. By developing a discipline within our life style, we can learn to live on a set percentage of the money we bring home each month. Leviticus 27:30 states "*One tenth of all the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord.*" Verses 31- 34 go on to explain the concept of tithing and make it crystal clear what is expected of us when we give to the Lord. It is also very clear; however, that what we are giving back is actually simply a percentage of what has been given to us. Yes, we work hard for what we earn, but we receive much more than we give. Again by turning to the Bible, we can see that the Lord promises a bountiful return for our tithes to the church.

Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things. (Malachai 3:10)

Can this level of giving actually be accomplished? The answer is "Yes". My wife and I know many people who have developed this discipline at various ages and stages of life, always with the same results. As they begin to practice the 10% rule, they have experienced the Lord's promises as stated above. From birth to death we look to our Church for the teachings and blessings of our Christian faith. It is important for each of us to develop the habit of helping others and our Church. If you are not already tithing, please prayerfully consider it. The money that we put toward the building program now will be helping people for many years to come.