



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Our Mission:** "Joyfully proclaiming God's Word...  
Enthusiastically sharing Christ's Love."

~ Matthew 28:19-20, 22:37-39

**Our Focus:** "Following HIM in Faith"

### INFORM EVENTS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What is the *Following Him in Faith* Campaign?

Last Fall, you, the congregation, identified a number of areas in which you felt First Lutheran Church needed to grow and identified a few additional needs around the campus.

#### You asked and we listened.

As a result, First Lutheran Church has entered into an agreement with Ministry Support Services of The Lutheran Church Extension Fund to partner with us in reviewing our mission and ministry plans, leading to the development of a three year ***Immeasurably More Capital Campaign*** designed to raise additional funds, over and above current annual giving, in support of ministry projects that will enhance our congregation's future ministry as we "*joyfully proclaim God's Word and enthusiastically share Christ's love.*"

As part of this plan, the campaign had a need for a few members of the congregation to step up in an effort to begin to look into the possibilities of pursuing such an ambitious campaign. However, this is just the beginning. We will need more members to fill additional roles as this campaign progresses. Until this past week, these members (the current campaign directors) have been working hard in an effort to obtain specific answers to some of these needs so that they could then 'inform' you, the congregation with realistic goals and objectives. Again, these are needs and goals identified by you, the congregation, in recent months.

It may feel as if this campaign came out of nowhere, but this is not the case at all. Until now, the information was not ready to be shared. Now that we have the needed information we are prepared to share our findings with the congregation, and the campaign is ready to begin in earnest. This part of the campaign is known as the Inform Phase. This is the time when we reach out to the entire congregation to inform you of all that has been going on behind the scenes and to let you know what we have prayerfully found that God is leading us towards and what we as a congregation are capable of accomplishing in a 3-year timeline.

Many of you have already attended the first three Inform Events this past week but we have not yet managed to reach everyone in our congregation in person. We hope to be able to reach everyone in the next couple of weeks as it is important that every member be informed of what this campaign is all about. Additionally, you should also have received a special mailing a couple of weeks ago explaining a little bit about this Immeasurably More Campaign, which we are also referring to as the Following Him in Faith Campaign. You will begin to see the logo with more frequency in First Notes where we will share additional tidbits about the campaign as things unfold. You will also see a copy of the latest FAQ or Frequently Asked Questions posted on the First Lutheran Church (FLC) website. Also, keep an eye on your email box for additional such mailings as another method in which we can share this exciting campaign with you. We want you to know that your prayers have been heard and with your help, will be answered in just 3 short years. But you will begin to see the fruits of your 'giving' labors much sooner than that.

Tammie Lauer  
Inform Director



## INFORM EVENTS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

As a result of the first three Inform Events, the following questions came up and the responses to these questions are provided below:

### **Please clarify the \$1.7 M figure.**

This number includes the total commitments (from the congregation) plus any additional amount needed by way of a loan. The \$1.7 M is an overall estimation (based on a number of studies and estimates received since the Fall of 2018) of the cost to do all of the things identified as a need or a goal as part of this campaign.

### **Why do we not just try to raise the full \$1.7M so that we do not have any additional debt?**

Based on LCEF modeling, and our history of annual giving, it was determined that we should be able to raise \$1.2M. We will raise as much money as people are lead to commit to giving. If we do manage to raise this much, then we would have no additional debt. The voters assembly meeting in June will decide upon additional debt to be incurred or not (once the commitments have been received).

### **How does this impact our current debt?**

Our current debt is \$349K (this was from a 2004 loan) and our current loan rate is 4.625 percent. This can be rolled into any new debt incurred as a result of this campaign. We can roll it into an LCEF loan which will also have a lower rate of 3.75 percent for this new loan (if needed).

### **Do we pay the current loan off first?**

If we waited to do that at the current rate, this loan would not be paid off until 2026. So, no we do not feel that waiting is an option. Many of the needs identified by the congregation and others must be addressed now.

### **Will all of the classrooms for LLPS be in the new building? And would they only be used for LLPS?**

Yes, LLPS will finally be located all under one roof. These classrooms and other areas will be available for other use as needed when not being used by LLPS.

### **What level of confidence do we have in the analysis of the new proposed building?**

John Korkill provided a soft cost estimate (detailed layout and other paperwork available upon request). We are confident with the information we have been provided to date.

### **Do we anticipate any water problems?**

No water problems are anticipated at this time as this building will be built above ground on a concrete slab.

**What can you tell me about the size of the new LLPS building (will it accommodate more children/larger classes)? Are there plans to grow the numbers for LLPS?**

**Will we be able to increase enrollment at Little Lambs Preschool with these new facilities, or could we expand the preschool to include older grades?**

Our property does not exit onto Lower Marlboro Road and in order to increase the class sizes we must have a second access / entrance onto the property (per county codes). At the current time, our attendance is limited by Calvert County traffic regulations. The only way on and off our property is onto the heavily traveled Route 4. Because of this we are currently allowed to have no more than 45 students per day. We operate slightly lower than this in order to provide a 12-to-1 student-teacher ratio, which is deemed to allow the best level of instruction and care for our students. The only way to change our property access would be to acquire property along Lower Marlboro Road and build additional entrances. However, this property is currently not available to us. Current demographic projections for Calvert County do not show an increase in the population looking to enter private schooling. In addition, Calvert County public schools are beginning to offer free all-day pre-kindergarten to 4-year olds. These factors mean expansion will likely be limited to those under age 4. We could meet this demand with the planned improvements. At this time, this building will allow for LLPS to all move under one roof to accommodate the current needs of the school (classrooms, indoor play space, offices, storage).

**How will this new building benefit First Lutheran Church overall?**

One of the shortfalls First Lutheran Church has is storage space. If you take a walk around our campus, you will note that we use almost any place we can for storage to include the stage in the Fellowship Hall, the mechanical rooms throughout the building, and the kitchen area. If Little Lambs Preschool were to move into a new consolidated First Ministry Center it would free up two classrooms, an office, and a workroom. One of the classrooms could be used to store the material currently stored on the Fellowship Hall stage and in various mechanical rooms. The other classroom could be used to house the Youth Ministry, with the Youth Director occupying the office. The Workroom could be used to provide a dedicated space for the First Lutheran Church Food Pantry, which currently takes up space in the kitchen. The Fellowship Hall and stage could be used as a place where community groups could gather for theater productions, musical performances, receptions, and other events. It could also become a place for Contemporary Worship. Moving LLPS into its own building will allow for First Lutheran Church to become more effective in reaching out to our community as a whole. With our current set up (LLPS operating in a trailer that is about to fall apart and split between two buildings) First Lutheran Church is not able to Enthusiastically share Christ's love to those who are in need of our care as we do not have the space to meet these needs.

**What is the capacity of the proposed indoor play area that will also be used as a multi-purpose room when needed?**

Approximately 2/3 the size of the current fellowship hall (which is where LLPS children go during inclement weather currently). Proposed size approximately 1500 Square feet.

**Are the donations (the commitments) tax deductible?**

Yes

**What happened to the concept of the larger building with everything that had been proposed in it?**

The Land Development Task Force reviewed previous land use plans as part of it's work. It discovered three issues that need to be addressed as we plan to use the land. **First**, the two trailers were approved by the County to be placed where they are currently located. However, they are illegally situated on two different properties, both owned by First Lutheran Church. To remedy this, and clear the way for any future replacement of these trailers, the Board of Directors approved "replatting" of the property First Lutheran Church owns. This replatting will move property lines and take better advantage of required Calvert County environmental preservation regulations (i.e. wetlands preservation and forest retention) in any future construction we might decide on. **Second**, the parking lot was not striped in accordance with Calvert County parking regulations. It will either need to be restriped or expanded slightly to properly accommodate the same number of parking spaces. **Third**, the current septic system is adequate for the current land use approved by Calvert County. However, if we expand the use of the land (i.e. build a larger, multi-purpose facility such as was initially planned) an additional septic system will need to be included with that building. All work done to date allows us to bring Little Lambs Preschool under one roof on the approximate footprint of the two trailers while posturing First Lutheran for future growth on the remaining land should the congregation desire to do so. Also, a steel building would cost more in the long term to maintain. After prayerful consideration such a structure was found not to be a good long-term investment. Also, as we have more immediate needs that had been identified by the congregation this past Fall and as such, the idea to build something on that property is something that has to be tabled at this time and will be a consideration for this campus in a future campaign. At this time, the most pressing needs must be considered; the trailers are falling apart and they are not safe for the children. In order for LLPS to continue to operate, a new building is desperately needed. Keep in mind that our current sanctuary was not realized until almost 30 years after the Plusch family took the first steps of Sharing Christ's love in Calvert County. God has his own timeline and agenda for First Lutheran Church. We must honor Him by Following Him in Faith one step at a time so that we can do the work He desires for us to do in a way that is honoring to Him.

**The beautiful cross in the front of the building (stained glass squares) cannot be seen from route 2; only parts are lit up. Will this campaign do anything to fix this?**

The sanctuary upgrade will include a fix to this lighting problem. There had been some lights that had hung at one time which did light up this area but have broken but have never been replaced. This will be looked into.

**Other areas of concern that were brought up included looking into smaller hearing assistance pieces.**

This is being considered in the plan.

**Has inflation been built into the cost estimate for this new building?**

Yes, the market forces have been factored into this estimate.

**Laborers for Christ will be helping with this build to help save on the overall labor costs. There had been some issues in the prior build using Laborers for Christ. How will we ensure this does not repeat itself?**

We will have a General contractor / General Foreman to oversee the construction.

**What can I do to help?**

This is a “congregation-wide” campaign. It will require many hands to pitch in to make this campaign work. We will be in need of many different talents and gifts to plan and carry out fellowship activities to help people learn more about what’s being planned. We’ll need people to help put together informational materials, handouts and digital media that explain things to others. We’ll also need help contacting members personally about the campaign. And we’ll need people to help track and manage activities in the coming months and throughout the three-year campaign. Finally, we need your steadfast prayers. Pray that God helps you discern His vision of what First Lutheran will be like 45 years from now. Pray that God helps you discern how you will generously support this campaign, which will allow First Lutheran to reach any and all who are lost in the darkness of ignorance about God and His Word. Members will be asked to help out as well. Perhaps some of our members (small business owners/trades people) might also consider donations to help complete the interior of the building or other trades as needed to help defray some of the overall costs.

**Will the ‘giving chart’ be shared with the congregation?**

Yes, copies of this chart will be shared at a later time.

**Will the congregation be choosing which items will be installed and will there be a timeline for such events?**

The congregation has already decided and now great things are about to begin. The overall timeline for this campaign is 3 years. We anticipate seeing some things happening rather quickly. In the next 6 months, the sanctuary upgrades will begin. We are hoping to see the new sign sometime in the next 12 months or so; we are limited to how long it takes to obtain the proper permits and whatnot. We hope to begin breaking ground for the new building as early as 18 to 24 months from now.

**How did the campaign members arrive at these decisions? Why was this not communicated to the congregation until now?**

The campaign directors have been working hard since last Fall's "Let's Taco 'bout it" event when the congregation voted on the need for a new sign and installation of upgraded audio/visual equipment in the sanctuary. Since then, campaign directors were identified and have been working hard behind the scenes. The needs and goals (as provided by the congregation during that event) were identified and the campaign directors began to look into all of these areas (these include, LLPS, a new sign, upgraded audio/visual equipment, storage, outreach, and youth). Quotes were obtained, various options were considered, the county was contacted (there are limitations to the size and type of sign we can put up), and questions were asked as needed in order to be prepared to respond to the congregation during this, the Inform Phase. After many meetings, and a lot of hard work, it was finally time to share the results with the First Lutheran family. After crunching the numbers, it was determined that we will need \$1.7M (based on the estimates we have received to date) to do all that we are proposing to do as part of this campaign. This campaign did not come out of nowhere. It was created when the congregation as a whole identified these First Lutheran visions. Again, these are not just 'things' that we want to buy; these are areas in which we have identified as being areas in which we can grow God's family in Calvert County.

**Why now?**

It is time. The trailers are falling apart. The congregation has identified these as areas that need to be addressed.

**Why don't we just sell some of the land we have if we are not using it?**

This idea was floated and brought to the attention of the BOD. The decision at this time is not to sell any land until we as a congregation have determined that we definitely do not have a need for this land. However, keep in mind, that once the land is gone, it is gone. Al and Sally never envisioned being where we are today. It took several decades for First Lutheran to become the beacon on the hill that it is today. Although we have owned that other parcel of land for many years now, we have not been in a position to do whatever it is that God will have us do with that property. In His time, we will know His plans for that additional land.

**What's the status of the new sign?**

The purchase and installation of a new sign was approved and the Land Development Task Force looked into this item. The good news is that we can put up a new sign that will allow First Lutheran Church to more effectively and interactively communicate key information to the thousands of people that pass by First Lutheran's amazing location at the crossroads of Routes 2 and 4. However, due to Calvert County regulations our choices are limited in that we cannot put up any kind of electronic sign. In addition, there are limitations on sizes and distances from the road. The Sign Committee will continue to explore ideas that meet with County regulations so that we can more effectively take advantage of our location.

NOTE: This will be the first of many question and answer sheets during this process, if you have more specific questions, please reach out to a *Following Him in Faith* team member so we may discuss it at your earliest convenience and clear up any concerns you may have.