



Branching Out Campaign

"I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from me you can do nothing"

St. John Lutheran Church and School

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IT'S TIME!

After many years of self-study, planning and raising money, it's time to begin construction. After meetings with the construction manager and the building committee, a timeline has been established that will begin the construction process in mid-May pending city approval of our plan. If all goes according to plan, the new classrooms around the gymnasium should be completed by the end of 2018. To God be the Glory!



WHAT IS OUR TIMELINE?

The timeline for the new construction has been carefully planned to create the least amount of interference to our school activities. Most of the outside construction work will be completed during the summer months, leaving the interior work for when school is back in session, thus minimizing the inconveniences created by the new building and equipment on the property. Pending city approval of our plan, these are some of the established target dates

Early-Mid May	Temporary fencing and connector road put in place on north side of gym
Late May/Early June	Youth House taken down
Early June	Foundation laid
Early August	Steel work constructed
Mid-August	Roofing
Late August	Brick veneer installed
Early-Mid September	Curbs, sidewalks, paving
Mid-Late September	Framing and interior walls
Mid-October	Ceiling grid and lights installed
Mid-Late November	Flooring
Late November	Hardware
Early December	Final inspections



WHAT NOW?

As construction begins, we have a window of opportunity to reduce our costs on the loan we will eventually need to take out for this project. The loan is finalized at the end of the building process, so we have 6-8 months to push hard toward two goals:

1. Raising as much as we can toward the project to decrease the amount we need to borrow
2. Increasing the investments of our congregational members with Church Extension so that we can have at least one half the cost of the project invested, thus gaining us a 0.5% interest rate break on the loan. Ideally, we could reach 100% of the cost of the project, and earn a 1.0% rate break

While we are currently bringing in enough per month to cover the very first stage of construction, it would be wonderful if we could lower the cost of the loan we will have to take as much as we can AND gain a better interest rate. These two steps will enable us to pay off the loan sooner and move on to the subsequent phases of the Master Plan more quickly.

Brochures for Church Extension Fund products are located at the Branching Out table at the back of the church as well as in the school hallway on the Branching Out bulletin board. There are some great investment opportunities for our school families that expire at the end of the school year. Don't miss out on some great interest rates for your investments, while at the same time helping St. John achieve a rate break on our loan!

On **April 22nd** a Church Extension representative will lead a session during education hour to help inform our members how their investments can help our building program. Please take time to hear what CEF has to offer and to bring any questions you may have to the experts!

TOTAL RAISED (as of end of March 2018) \$710,225



THRIVENT ACTION DOLLARS

Do you have any investments or life insurance products with Thrivent Financial? If so, you're a member of Thrivent, and you have access to seed money that can really help our church and school. By creating a Thrivent Action Team for certain events, you can receive a \$250 Community Impact gift card (up to two times a year, depending on your membership) to help pay for food, supplies, and more for approved events. You simply fill out the application online, and if approved, Thrivent will mail you the \$250 gift card along with an Action Team Kit. The box contains t-shirts for volunteers, thank you cards, and a banner! A Thrivent representative will be on hand **April 22nd** during education hour to help us learn more about this great opportunity. To learn more about how you can start an Action Team, please visit: www.thrivent.com and click the Making a Difference Tab. If you would like more information about Thrivent Financial, call our church's Thrivent representative, Jim Riske at 586-726-8899.

ORGAN REPAIR UPDATE

The Branching Out campaign is more than just new classrooms, bathrooms and a library. A huge part of the cost of the first phase of the Master Plan is the repairing of our organ. This will involve the disassembly of the organ the day after Easter and having all the pieces cleaned and rehabbed so that the organ will be in pristine condition again. The organ will also receive a digital upgrade which will enhance its abilities. After everything is cleaned and repaired it will be reinstalled and retuned. This whole process is scheduled to take about seven months. The current schedule calls for the organ work to be completed in time for the Thanksgiving, Boar's Head and Christmas seasons. Another critical component will be air conditioning for the church. This will help cut down on the humidity issues that damaged the organ in the first place, creating a safer environment for our organ and a more comfortable worship experience for our congregation.



EVENTS SUMMARY

Our 2nd Annual Branching Out Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Competition was held on Feb. 2nd in the gym. We had 18 chili's submitted and more than 10 desserts. Valerie Elliott won the award for Best Chili for her White Chicken Chili, and Angela Hoehner won Best Dessert for her chocolate peanut butter Oreo dessert. The winner received a trophy and gift card to Chili's and Cheesecake Factory. There was live music by the band PBM.

Our next event is our Euchre Tournament on April 27th at 7 pm in the cafeteria. Cost is \$10 per person. There will be snacks and beverages, and prizes for the winners. This event is open to other churches, so please spread the word to friends and family!

Details will be coming out soon regarding our 2nd Annual Branching Out Golf Outing!

These Branching Out events have been a critical component in raising funds. So far, our events have raised over \$21,000 toward the project. Please consider attending these events and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship!



REMINDER!

While the Master Plan is important, it is imperative to remember **WHY** we have taken up this project – to enhance our ministries. **Remember that giving to the Branching Out project should be IN ADDITION to your regularly pledged giving to the ministry of the church.** We still have staff to support and bills to pay in addition to the financial responsibilities to the many ministries we offer to our congregation and to our community. It will do us no good to undertake this project if we are not properly funding our ministries and our ministers. God has greatly blessed us here at St. John and we can show our faith and trust in Him by being good stewards of what He has given us. If you currently do not, please consider giving a tithe of your blessings back to the Lord, and experience the ways God blesses you in return.



SAVE THESE DATES

4/27 Euchre Tournament
05/19 Golf Outing
8/25 Road Rally
10/6 Bowling Night

St. John Branching Out Events 2018
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