

**1. Q What is the **Brighten...The Light** campaign?**

**A** St. John has been working with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to review our mission and ministries and to plan for the future. The **Brighten...The Light** campaign is designed to help us raise funds, over and above our annual giving, to help us maintain and enhance our building and to support and grow our current and future ministries.

**2. Q What is the timeline for the campaign, including estimated dates?**

**A** Beginning in February, three different information events will be held at St. John so that questions can be asked and information about the campaign can be given. March will be dedicated to inspiring the congregation to support the campaign. Commitment Sunday, when all the members will be asked to make a 3-year pledge over and above their current giving, will be Sunday, March 29. Impact Sunday is April 26. The first of the regular pledges will be received in April of 2020.

**3. Q How long will the campaign run?**

**A** Members are asked to consider making a 3-year pledge that is above regular/annual giving. The Impact/giving phase of the campaign is May 2020 to April 2023.

**4. Q What is the giving goal of the **Brighten...The Light** campaign?**

**A** Based on the size, budget and giving history of St. John, the target goal for this campaign is one million dollars. This goal is challenging but feasible. If we exceed that amount, we will praise God for His provision. If we fall short, we will praise God for His provision and the congregation, through a vote of the recommendations by the Ministry Leadership Board, will adjust the scope of projects and prioritize what parts of the vision we want to pursue.

**5. Q What are the ways that St. John members can participate in this campaign?**

**A** Members participate first and foremost by faithful attendance at worship and by praying for St. John and our members and ministries. Members will have opportunities to attend the various information forums and other campaign events that will be happening in the months of February and March. Members are also encouraged to ask questions, to discuss, and to positively help us move forward with this campaign. Our prayer is that every member will make a pledge, over and above current giving, to support this campaign. If a pledge cannot be made then we ask for your prayer support.

**6. Q What are the plans for how the pledged monies will be used?**

**A** During the early part of 2019, members of St. John, both individuals and the various ministry groups, brainstormed and “imagined” how we could expand and improve ministries at St. John. From this process, we developed a case statement and ministry impact areas including renovations, new facilities, and site and equipment improvements. The campaign booklet contains more specifics and includes drawings.

**7. Q How will we prioritize the pledged monies as in which ministries and improvements will be implemented?**

**A** The **Brighten...The Light** campaign Booklet identifies the four ministry areas impacted by the congregation’s vision for the future. Some have called this the “bucket list” for St. John as we move forward in doing “whatever it takes for the sake of God’s Kingdom!” Our prayer is, that in the near future, the Lord willing, all of our plans will come to fruition. Led by the Ministry Leadership Board (MLB), we will review all of the ministry impact areas identified and present recommendations for the congregation’s approval.

**8. Q Since the giving goal of one million dollars will not allow us to complete everything identified in the campaign booklet, what options are available for St. John moving forward?**

- A**
- A. Consult with our ministry partners at LCEF to explore lending resources and financial options for fulfilling all or a major part of the **Brighten...The Light** campaign priorities.
  - B. Develop a 3-5 year strategy for managing the repayment of any new LCEF facilities expansion and improvement loans
  - C. Develop a prioritized renovation and improvement plan that utilizes the **Brighten...The Light** campaign funds over a three year period.

**9. Q Why are we expanding the Fellowship Hall?**

- A** For several reasons:
- Over the last five years our Grief Ministry has grown. Many of the events the Grief ministry has held has filled the Fellowship Hall to beyond capacity. As this ministry continues to expand more space will be needed and the ministry is most effective when in the same space as opposed to utilizing other parts of the building.
  - We also have had several events throughout the years that have filled the Fellowship Hall (Bethlehem, Fall Festival, Marriage Weekend, funeral receptions, meetings of other groups, etc.). Expanded space would allow for growth in these areas.
  - With the addition of another staff person (Director of Christian Education for Children/Youth) and the lack of space to adequately place this person close to current office staff, additional office space would be needed.
  - By enlarging the Fellowship Hall for growth in ministry and adding additional office space to one building, the need for the children and youth to have dedicated space becomes important. When the current offices are reconfigured, not only will the children and youth have a dedicated space but we will also be able to relocate our nursery closer to the sanctuary making it more convenient for use.
  - Currently, the Fellowship Hall is about 1,600 square feet and can hold 110 people; with expansion, the Fellowship Hall will hold 200 people and be about 3,000 square feet.

## **10. Q** Why can't we use the gymnasium for larger events?

**A** We can, however, the Fellowship Hall has a more suitable atmosphere than the gym for the types of gatherings and food events that we are currently hosting and accommodating. The location is also more accessible and is furnished with more up-to-date facilities including handicap bathrooms.

Another target the congregation deemed important to focus on was creating a Community Destination through use of our facility and land. Moving our ministry events to the gymnasium would challenge our ministry of space rental to the community. Some of our larger events do occur in the gymnasium (Marriage Weekend, Wrestling Events, One Night In Bethlehem, The Walk, VBS). However, we are currently renting the gym in the evenings 20 out of 30 days during a given month, which is projected to increase by 20-30% when air conditioning is installed. Currently we are turning people away in the summer months because of the heat in the gym.

## **11. Q** What sort of repairs/upgrades will be the focus for the existing building?

**A** Upkeep is a big expense for a facility this size. The plans are to upgrade or repair the following:

- Install new HVAC (air conditioning and heating) for the Gymnasium Area
- Replace windows
- Repair/replace roofing
- Resurface the entire parking lot
- Renovate/repurpose office spaces and classrooms

## **12. Q** Why are we using LCEF to help with the campaign?

**A** Capital campaigns are more effective when congregational volunteers are given professional assistance in planning, managing, and following-up all aspects of the campaign. The St. John Ministry Leadership Board chose the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) because they were convinced LCEF would do an excellent job for us, and because LCEF, as a Christian and Lutheran organization, has the same mission as does St. John and this campaign.

## **13. Q** How much long-term debt does St. John currently have?

**A** St. John currently has an outstanding loan with LCEF for approximately \$96,000. We are paying \$864.33/month of which approximately \$500 is going toward principle and \$300 toward interest.

## **14. Q** We have funds in reserve/savings. What's the plan for this money?

**A** These funds will cover the ministry operating expenses that we anticipate might occur with the initial hiring of a Director of Christian Education for Children/Youth ministry.

**15. Q** What if something happens in my life or family situation and I'm unable to fulfill my commitment?

**A** Although the hope is that everyone will complete their pledge, your pledge is not a legal, binding document. Life happens and circumstances change. If you're unable to fulfill your pledge, you should let the Impact Director know of your situation. No one outside of the Impact Team will know your pledge or be aware of your level of giving.

**16. Q** What are specifics on how contributions can be made?

**A** The **Brighten...The Light** campaign booklet contains information on giving and a sample commitment card. Givers at every level are valued and valuable. You may choose on your commitment card to contribute, over a three-year period, weekly, monthly or annually. We do ask that you return a commitment card so that we can thank you for your gifts and celebrate the overall results with all the members as we reach the giving goal.

*Questions as of February 2, 2020*