

Capital Campaign Newsletter

St. Luke the Evangelist Church

1102 NW Weigel Dr., Ankeny, IA 50023

515-964-1278 www.slte.org

Volume 1:2

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A Message From Fr. Adam

There are great things going on at St. Luke the Evangelist, and I am truly honored to be a part of them. We had our first volunteer meeting for our capital campaign and nearly 50 people showed up to generously give their time and talents to ensure the success of the campaign. The best part of this is we had a great mix of people there—newer and founding members, school parents, RE parents, older members and younger members. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm in the room as each of the participants identified which of the six teams they wanted to work on. Teams immediately began their work, and the whole campaign is moving forward. We would like to get even more people to be a part of making this campaign a success, and I encourage you to get involved. See page 2 of this newsletter for more information about the six different teams. I want to thank everyone who is involved in the campaign and look forward to a successful campaign because of your involvement and the love that you all have for our parish community.

As your associate pastor, this campaign is a new experience for me. What I find most exciting is that our community has come together and is working as a team to expand our ability to fulfill the mission entrusted to us at St. Luke's— to worship, to teach, and to care. We as a parish are in full swing to grow and plan in each of these areas. The liturgy

committee is planning for Lent and will offer many opportunities for spiritual growth during that season of renewal, our Pastoral Council and Social Concerns committees are working together to develop a partnership with a Catholic Parish on a reservation that will help us expand our scope of care, and members of our School Board and Marketing Committee are hard at work recruiting next year's kindergarten class. You may have seen our advertisements in Ankeny Living, in the Diocesan Mirror, in the Ankeny Press Citizen, or on a door hang in your neighborhood. We have also been meeting with potential St. Luke's School Parents at OLIH, and are looking to expand our outreach to other neighboring parishes. St. Luke School is a Catholic school for all of Ankeny and its surrounding communities and we have much to offer families who want to be a part of this fantastic experience. If you know of someone who may be interested in checking out St. Luke School for their children, please have them call our Principal, Tonya Eaton, at 515-964-1278 to schedule a tour. Please keep our parish and its leadership in your prayers and thank you for your support as we collectively work to bring about the Kingdom of God.

In Christ,

Fr. Adam Associate Pastor



St. Luke the Evangelist Vision Statement

Imagine a trilogy of centers for all seasons of life: Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish accepts the mission of Jesus to proclaim his good news with compassion and mercy. Having been so greatly blessed by God, our faith community responds in love.

We worship.

We teach.

We care.

Capital Campaign Kicks Off with Successful Volunteer Event

Our Volunteer Meeting on January 23 brought together nearly 50 parishioners to begin work on our campaign. By the end of the meeting, each team was working on their

designated tasks. **We are still looking for volunteers.** If you have a couple of hours to share and want to be more involved in the life our faith family, volunteer for one of

Volunteer Event Continued from page 1

the teams. Most teams will meet one or two times between now and the middle of May. Contact one of the listed team leaders to get involved. No special skills or experience needed.

The six teams are:

Spiritual Formation: Assist the parish to focus on making the decision to make a pledge to the campaign more a spiritual decision than a financial one, focusing on how God wants each of us to use our gifts to build His Kingdom. If you have a great appreciation for prayer, we need your help. (**Teresa Busch - tpriesbe@gmail.com or Kathy Lickteig - klickt@aol.com**)

Dialogue Events: Provide opportunities for parishioners to gather with parish leadership to ask questions and raise concerns. This team needs people to help organize the events. (**Mike Roarty - JMRoarty@outlook.com**)

Public Relations: A good pledge to a campaign is one that is made with a lot of good information. The PR team helps to get information out and to generate excitement among parishioners regarding the campaign. This is a good team for someone who is creative. (**Andy Cink - ajcink@hotmail.com or Vicky Gilloley - vgilloley@gmail.com**)

Children & Youth: Instilling in our children and youth the notion that all that we have and all that we are, are gifts from God, is the focus of this team. They will be working with the RE program, school and youth program to encourage involvement in the campaign and for the children and youth to appreciate their giftedness. Like working with children and youth? You belong here. (**Mary**



Shell - mary.kuster.shell@gmail.com or Aaron Shell - aaronshell@gmail.com)

Thanks & Recognition: This team's responsibility is to design a way to show the parish's appreciation for the sacrifices parishioners are making to support the campaign. People who appreciate the power of the words "Thank You" would fit very well on this team. (**Kelli Juravich - kellikinsella40@yahoo.com or Dana Bastian - danabastian@gmail.com**)

Calling: Two weeks prior to Commitment Weekend, this team will be calling every parish household to 1) ask if parishioners received the campaign commitment packet in the mail, 2) if they have any questions, and 3) remind parishioners to bring their commitment packets to Mass with them on Commitment Weekend, June 2-3. Do you like to talk to people? This team is for you. Training will be provided. (**Scott Ciochetto - scott@cna-cs.com or Charlene Judge - cjudge1013@gmail.com**)

What are the challenges we are facing?

We will double in size within the next five to six years.

We sit on the edge of the third fastest growing community in the USA. As a result, our parish membership is growing at a rate of about 100 families a year. At this rate, we will double in size within the

lack of office space. Our ministries will be limited because of the lack of meeting space for adults; parishioners at times will need to resort to parking on Weigel Street; and our school will need to purchase several more outdoor mobile classrooms to accommodate our added students.

next five to six years. We are excited about the growth and seeing all the new faces at our Masses. Every one of our new members brings new gifts to share as we work to fulfill our vision: We Worship, We Teach, We Care. As our parish grows, we are stretching our facilities to the extreme and within three years, we will not be able to house all our staff because of



What is our plan?



Our first capital campaign was a five-year campaign and comes to conclusion in June of this year. With funds from the first campaign, we were able to construct our current campus, leaving us

with an interest rate of 2.98%. The rate changes every five years.

Since we can make payments on the current loan, all money raised for Phase II will go directly to expanding our facilities. This includes expanding the front of our worship space to the north so the new space will increase our capacity at Masses and double for meeting rooms for the parish. We also plan to double our current parking, and add 10 classrooms and 3 offices to the education wing. The classrooms will also be used for our growing Religious Education Program. Total cost for Phase II is \$4.9 million.

Eventually, we will construct our permanent church to the east of our current church and convert our current church into our parish hall for large parish gatherings. We also continue to work with the diocese to partner in the construction of a Senior Living Center.

with a debt of \$5.6 million.

We have approximately \$850,000 in savings that was generated from the first campaign. This reserve is being used to make the **\$14,000 monthly principal payments** on our loan. The **interest payments** of about **\$14,000** are being paid out of our regular operating budget. With our reserve, we can continue to pay the monthly principal for the next five years. We have 23 years left on the variable rate loan

Q & A: If you have a question you would like to see here, contact Bill Cordaro at Bill@SPandR.consulting

Q: What does a successful Capital Campaign look like?

1. We raise the necessary funds to start Phase II of the Master Plan for our parish.
2. The campaign provides an opportunity for parishioners to build a stronger bond with our faith community.
3. Parishioners grow in their understanding of stewardship and become more generous with their time, talent and treasure.

Q: How much will Phase II cost?

Phase II includes the extension of the church to the north which will also be used for meeting rooms, doubling our parking, adding 3 offices and 10 classrooms. It will cost \$4.9 million.

Q: What were the results of the first campaign?

We launched the five-year campaign in June of 2013. We had 152 parish households gift or pledge to the campaign a total of \$1,561,092. In addition, we received major gifts from the following:

- ◆ Don and Charlene Lamberti - \$2,000,000 (Designated for the school only)
- ◆ Krause Gentle Foundation - \$250,000
- ◆ Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish - \$250,000
- ◆ The Ringgenberg Family donated the land

The total cost of Phase I was approximately \$8 million. With the gifts and pledges, the remaining debt for Phase I is \$5.6 million.

Q: What is the financial health of our parish?

Our young and growing parish is financially demanding, with quickly growing needs for staff and facilities to carry out the mission and ministries of our parish. Now seven years old, St Luke's has been able to manage our parishioners' generous gifts to fuel the growth. Tithing

supports our daily operating expenses including the cost of our ministries, programs, administration, utilities and debt.

Gifts to our first capital campaign are paying down the principal on our debt.

We have enough in our campaign fund to continue to pay down our debt for nearly five years.

Tithing growth kept pace as new families joined St Luke's, up until last fall. In recent months that growth has stalled and our tithing is lower than last year at the same time.

Parishioner tithing that doesn't keep pace with our growth is our parish's biggest current financial risk and concern. We are now undertaking our next phase of growth with our Phase II capital campaign leading to expansion of our facilities. Parishioners indicated in the feasibility study that they will once again respond with generosity to fuel this next phase of growth.

Currently, our total budget is \$1.3 million. General budget updates can be found in the parish bulletin or contact the parish office for more information.

Q: When can we start construction on Phase II?

According to the Diocesan Building Guidelines, all of the necessary funds for a project must be pledged and 50% must be collected before construction can proceed. We will await the results of our Campaign before we give a definite start date. Like Phase I, we will be seeking outside money to cover part of Phase II.

Look for this information in upcoming newsletters as well as the bulletin and on our website.



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St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church & School
 1102 NW Weigel Dr.
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Campaign Update
 Enclosed

Our Campaign
 Commitment Weekend is
 June 2 & 3, 2018
 Mark Your Calendars!

Q&A Continued from page 3

Q: How does the Diocese help us in the campaign?
 The Diocese of Des Moines offers a considerable level of expertise in the construction and growth of a parish. The Diocesan Building Commission is made up of a number of highly trained individuals from all areas of the business world and our bishop, and they provide insight and oversight to make sure the projects undertaken by a parish are well planned, serve the mission of the Catholic Church, and remain within the financial capabilities of the parish. After we have conducted our capital campaign, we will present the results to the Diocesan Building Commission and they will guide us as we implement our plans for Phase II construction.

Q: How can we involve our children in the campaign process?
 An old teaching adage says: Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand. If children are going to understand stewardship, it is important to involve them both in the campaign activities and in the decision-making process that leads to a family's commitment to the campaign. Here are some suggestions for involving children in stewardship:

1. Hold a family meeting to discuss what commitment the family will make to the campaign and how it will impact

the family. Encourage the children to express their feelings and have the children help determine ways the family can cut back on other expenses to fulfill their commitment. Children will take much more interest and ownership in the action if they are involved in the decision.

2. Invite the children to give up something or to do something special to raise money for the campaign. Connect their sacrifice and work to the vision of having a more welcoming church and sharing Jesus' story with more children.

3. Teach children that taking the time to pray is good stewardship. Prayer is giving time to God. Prayer is also a gift we can give to someone else when we pray for him or her.

4. Encourage the children's religious education classes and school to discuss stewardship. After class, ask your child what they learned and tell them what you are doing to be good stewards.

