

faithfully FORWARD

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear St. Peter's Family:

It is with great joy and honor that we have been asked to serve on this year's capital campaign as co-chairs with the theme "Faithfully Forward, His Hand Leading Us." Thank you to Kelly Bremer for sharing his God-given gifts and talents creating the theme and designing the logo.

"Faithfully Forward" is a direct result of something we experienced in the past that strengthened our faith to lead us forward, boldly. Jesus asked His disciples to drop their nets and follow Him. Though their faith wavered, it was strengthened as they walked Jesus' journey along with Him, from witnessing to others, to the Last Supper, to death on the cross, to the Resurrection! Thanks be to God!

As God's children, we have that same responsibility to share the great news of eternal salvation as we continue our walk... not alone... but with God's hand leading us every step of the way.

In 2001 we felt that the creation of a pre-school program would be a great ministry opportunity for our community, serving families who wanted their young children to experience a Christ-centered education. The first year the pre-school opened, we had 45 students. Today, we have 84 students. Additionally, 56 families that didn't previously have a church home found that the love, compassion, and dedication of our staff and congregation welcomed them to God's house, and they made St. Peter's their home!

In March of 2011, we felt our ministries were outgrowing our facilities, and a new Master Plan was proposed and approved. This Master Plan was divided into phases, the first of which was our latest building program. This phase included a new gymnasium, kitchen, preschool rooms, and meeting rooms for Bible study and other ministry functions on the lower level. An elevator was added to accommodate members with different needs, and all areas were upgraded to be handicap accessible. In the upper level, additional office space, meeting rooms, the Ministry Center, and an enclosed corridor were added to the west side of the building. At the school, air conditioning was added to all classrooms, along with window upgrades and an improved entrance. The phase one approved project cost was \$6.6 million at a time when the construction market was starving for work. As a result, pricing was low, and interest rates were also low! God's perfect plan.

Today, we have significantly paid down the building loan thanks to you! The remaining balance of phase one at the end of this year will be approximately \$3.5 million! God continues to lead us Faithfully Forward, His hand leading us. Everything we have is a gift from God, not by our own doing but purely given to us from God. He has asked us to be good stewards of the resources that he has entrusted to us so that we might serve others. As we all know, when God calls us to His heavenly home, we leave everything behind that will be re-gifted by God to the generations to follow so that they too can continue, Faithfully Forward, His hand leading them!

His hand leading us

This campaign is going to be driven by a Spiritual Process. We are going to begin by encouraging all to wake up each morning with a prayer: "Lord, What do You want to do through me?" Then, experience the joy of God's hand leading you.

The goal of Faithfully Forward is to eliminate this debt within the next four years or sooner. So, let us further God's mission for St. Peter's, knowing that He will not give us more than we can bear. We are asking for your prayers, your time, and your talents to FAITHFULLY MOVE FORWARD WITH HIS HAND LEADING US to complete phase one in its entirety.

Thank you and God's Blessings,

Dan & Linda Doehrmann

Troy & Melissa Buuck