



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need to do a third campaign?

The total cost of our 2014 building expansion and improvement project was \$6.6 million. The first campaign, Building on the Rock, raised approximately \$2.5 million, including a \$300,000 grant from the Lutheran Foundation. The second campaign, Sent to Share, is estimated to raise between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million by year end. This will leave us with an outstanding debt of approximately \$3.5 million dollars.

What is the goal of this campaign?

It is our hope and prayer that we raise the necessary funds to significantly reduce the debt or even eliminate it entirely within the next four years. The vast majority of the members surveyed spoke to the desire to pay off the debt before we look at other phases of the master building plan.

How do I decide how much to give?

The amount of the gift is not as important as the process by which you arrive at the gift. We invite you to join us on this wonderful journey of gratitude, prayer, faith, and sacrifice. Please pray, "Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

What is meant by everyone "giving sacrificially"?

Sacrificial giving is a commitment to give even when you would prefer to use your resources for other worldly means. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Can gifts other than cash be given?

Yes, gifts other than cash can include stocks, bonds, annuities, property, and other assets. Giving assets directly to the church can help the donor avoid capital gains tax, thus can result in a larger gift to the church. Individuals over the age of seventy and six months that are required to take minimum distributions from their retirement accounts can direct those

His hand leading us

distributions to the church and avoid federal income tax on the distribution. Please refer to your retirement professional or contact the church for further details.

What will we do once our debt has been eliminated?

As our campaign theme indicates, “Faithfully Forward, His hand leading us,” our leadership teams in conjunction with our members will prayerfully consider where God is leading us next. That could mean stepping faithfully forward to another phase of the master plan or to pause for a time to pursue other ministry needs.

What is our current monthly loan payment?

The original note was a twenty-year note with monthly payments of \$32,400.

When are we expected to start giving to the campaign?

The Sent to Share campaign will end December 31, 2018, and Faithfully Forward will start January 1, 2019. The first Sunday of the new year is January 6, and that weekend we will have a special First Fruits Offering as part of worship. Everyone will have the opportunity to give their first portion toward their Faithfully Forward pledge.

What about the other projects that were mentioned in the survey that we completed earlier this year?

While many of the other projects were scored highly in regards to being important or very important to our congregation (school upgrades scored 80% and was the highest score), our members clearly and overwhelmingly indicated that the debt needed to be addressed first.

Why is this campaign designed to last four years?

While we would love to complete this challenge in a three-year period, this opportunity is larger than either of the first two campaigns. We pray that it is God’s will for us to retire this debt in this campaign; therefore, we felt led to ask our members for a four-year commitment.

How can I participate if my budget is tight?

First, small gifts given over time can add up to a significant gift. Second, think outside of the box and get creative. Is there something you could sacrifice to free up revenue for a larger donation? Does your company match donations? What about a portion of a tax refund or a portion of future raises? Giving from the heart, regardless of the size of the gift, is always pleasing to God.