



CREATING
Space for Faith
TO GROW



**Growing in God's grace.
Reflecting Christ's love. Living in the Spirit.**



FIRST LUTHERAN
Church of Kearney - 2023



Brothers and Sisters of First Lutheran,

You are a generous people, graciously giving your time, support, and resources, caring for one another and our community. We are excited about what God is doing in and through this congregation. What a tremendous privilege to partner with you in this ministry!

The project before us has been thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared. It reflects the careful stewardship of this congregation while positioning First Lutheran with space to effectively support the ministries we care deeply about.

As we continue our shared commitment to the ongoing ministries of First Lutheran, this long-anticipated building project will improve our hospitality to young families, visitors, and guests, make better use of our sacred space, and support the central hub of church operations.

As you consider your participation in the Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign, please be mindful of our ongoing, life-changing ministries of First Lutheran. Even through this building project, we aim to sustain our ministry excellence and extend our partnership with Campus Lutheran Kearney. Your support makes this possible.

The Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign is a significant commitment. Achieving our goals will stretch us. This campaign may challenge us to step in faith where we see dimly. But we believe God will be faithful and will bless our willingness to trust.

We are a congregation committed to welcoming all people - boldly proclaiming this is Christ's Church. We share a living, daring confidence in God's grace. May we never lose this certainty.

Grateful partners in this ministry with you,

Kyle Means
Council President

Mark Kottmeyer
Campaign Chair

Campaign Leadership

Troy Brockmeier, Response Co-chair
Mark Kottmeyer, Campaign Chair
Kyle Means, Information Chair
Lisa Parish, Special Events Chair
Mark Schipporeit, Response Co-chair
Renae Zimmer, Inspiration Chair

Church Council

Karen Emal
Lee Friston, Secretary
Judy Henning
Mark Kottmeyer
Rachel Leach
Kyle Means, President
Mike Rafferty
Kelly Russman, Vice President
Shirley Smalley, Treasurer

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Michelle Carlson
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson
Rev. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman

Office Staff

Kandy Bacon,
Administrative Assistant
Marti Brockmeier, Bookkeeper
Jen Puls, Records and Events
Natalie Radcliffe,
Director of Music and Worship

Preschool Staff

Mindy Ackermann
Amanda Lewis
Lora Messbarger
Sonya Vetick

Limited Hospitality and Underused Spaces

Renovating First Lutheran's office area is a recommitment to our shared ministries that are coordinated and extended through this critical space – and the staff and pastors who shepherd this essential work. Like replacing a worn-out HVAC system, this is important infrastructure as we join in God's work for the life of the world.

While First Lutheran's congregation and ministries have grown over the years, the central hub that helps to keep these ministries running smoothly has become overtaxed. Our staff and pastors have been good stewards of the resources available. They are creative and accommodating in their work to sustain ministry excellence. But their efficiency and effectiveness are sorely hampered by limited space that does not reflect the hospitality of other areas of our building.

Our office and reception spaces – the most-used areas of our church building week-to-week and season after season – do not receive guests and members well. With no reception seating, an active and noisy copier, inadequate meeting space for counseling, and insufficient office workspace, this is a poor first impression for many who come to First Lutheran to meet with our staff and pastors.

As we seek to improve church spaces for shared ministry, it is apparent that the old church sanctuary does not hold for us the same sacred importance shared by generations past. Relegated as a storage area, we believe this space can be refreshed for current and new ministries that better demonstrate our commitment to growing in God's grace, reflecting Christ's love, and living in the Spirit.



First Lutheran Church is a thriving ministry that has grown in faith and in service. God is working in and through the congregation of First Lutheran in mighty ways. We see God present in:

- » 3 weekly worship services
- » 17 ministry teams serving our congregation
- » A preschool that shapes hearts and minds
- » More than 15 ministry partners locally and globally
- » Scores of social and faith-developing events that build our community of faith,
- » Radio broadcasts, online streaming, and weekly podcasts to extend God's message beyond our church walls
- » In the small moments of conversation and care – celebrating together, comforting one another, through study, worship, and prayer for our community and shared ministry

First Lutheran Church has been so important for my faith journey. Having opportunities to get involved in ministry, education, and programming has brought me closer to God. Now, I'm seeing my kids have the same opportunities to learn and grow in Christ. This is all made possible because of staff, pastors, and volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the congregation and community. Having adequate, comfortable space to meet and work is so vital to the continued success of our ministry and outreach. - Kyle Means, Council President

Renovated Office

Renovating the church office space has been a priority for more than 20 years. Though attention has shifted to more urgent building needs over these years, we are returning our focus to improve this vital space that is central to First Lutheran's ministries. Renovations will include:

- » Improving the First Lutheran office corridor to increase the number of offices from 4 to 9, providing adequate space for our 3 pastors and up to 6 additional staff
- » An enlarged lobby will expand gathering space and traffic flow within the building
- » Moving the nursery closer to the sanctuary and including a dedicated nursery restroom to better serve our young families
- » Replacing worn carpet, paint, fixtures, and furniture, and increasing the HVAC efficiency
- » Create a dedicated copy and print work room for the many projects handled by our office administrator
- » Include a meeting room with proper and comfortable seating for members and guests in need of comforting and counseling
- » Establish an inviting reception area that demonstrates our hospitality for visitors and members meeting together or with our staff



Additional Improvements

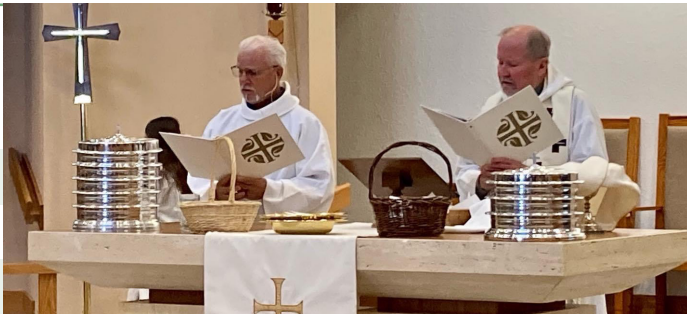
- » Our aging HVAC system is inefficient and its components obsolete.
- » The old sanctuary is a sacred space for many in this congregation who made vows, were themselves baptized or brought their children for this sacrament. Though we don't continue to meet in this sanctuary week to week, many of us can't help but think of it as holy ground. Yet, having relegated it to a storage area, we do not honor this space in a way that reflects this conviction. We believe we can better use this space and intend to refresh this space as offices to support life-giving, life-changing ministries.

*I am most excited about our **Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign** because an appropriate office space speaks volumes about our church. To visitors it says "welcome." To people in need of pastoral care, it says that First Lutheran is here to give comfort. To staff it says we want to help you do your best with less stress. And to all of us it says "the work happening here is important because it helps us to share God's love." - Lisa Reese Parish*

Project Summary

The estimated costs of these improvements total \$2,250,000. Funds will be distributed by the Council and are anticipated to be allocated as follows:

Renovate Office Corridor & Nursery	\$1,100,000
Upgrade HVAC System	\$950,000
Project Contingency	\$200,000



Annual Fund

As the congregation considers contributing to the building needs through this campaign, we know that sustaining a thriving ministry also needs support.

In the coming year, we are working to improve our communication with FLC members and the broader community while also creating new programs and strengthen existing ministries. We believe we can do this well with a modest increase to our operational costs. Please consider your commitment to the building campaign needs in addition to your ongoing annual ministry commitment. An estimated increase of \$270 per week is needed (a total of \$14,000 per year from the congregation) to provide this expanded ministry support.

Your Commitment

You are being asked to prayerfully consider two gifts to First Lutheran as part of this appeal.

A One-Year Commitment. First, we seek to sustain ministry excellence throughout ongoing ministries. Please consider a modest increase to your one-year annual ministry gift to FLC to support our growing ministries in the congregation, in our community, and beyond.

A Three-Year Commitment. Second, your gift to the **Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign** which can be contributed over three years in support of building improvements. As you consider your participation, the following tables may be helpful.

Gifts of the following amounts and quantities are needed to reach the **Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign** goal of \$2,250,000.

VALUE OF GIFT	# OF GIFTS	RUNNING TOTAL
\$200,000.00	Stevenson Legacy Gift	\$200,000.00
\$150,000.00	1	\$350,000.00
\$100,000.00	2	\$550,000.00
\$75,000.00	5	\$925,000.00
\$50,000.00	7	\$1,275,000.00
\$25,000.00	10	\$1,525,000.00
\$15,000.00	15	\$1,750,000.00
\$10,000.00	22	\$1,970,000.00
\$5,000.00	25	\$2,095,000.00
\$3,000.00	35	\$2,200,000.00
\$1,095.00	46	\$2,250,370.00
TOTAL	168	\$2,250,370.00

Contributed over time, gifts can make a significant difference.

AMOUNT PER WEEK	AMOUNT PER MONTH	AMOUNT PER YEAR	3-YEAR AMOUNT
\$256	\$1,109	\$13,332	\$40,000
\$192	\$832	\$10,000	\$30,000
\$160	\$693	\$8,333	\$25,000
\$128	\$555	\$6,666	\$20,000
\$96	\$416	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$64	\$277	\$3,333	\$10,000
\$32	\$139	\$1,667	\$5,000
\$23	\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$12	\$52	\$600	\$1,800
\$6.50	\$28	\$336	\$1,000
\$3.85	\$17	\$200	\$600

\$1 per day for three years is a gift of \$1,095

By honoring and utilizing the space we have been given in this building, we are responding to God's gift of grace. ...By intentionally thinking about and praying on the stewardship of the gifts God has given to each of us, we embody living in the Spirit. - Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: When do my gift payments for the appeal begin?

A: Unless you prefer a different timetable, the payment period begins June 1, 2023. The intent card has a place for you to indicate how and when you will fulfill your commitment.

Q: How long does the campaign last?

A: The campaign will last for three years: June 2023 – May 2026. However, if you feel you can make a larger gift by extending the time, you are welcome to do so. You may also make a one-time gift or contribute over less than three years.

Q: Is it possible to just make gifts to the appeal without making a specific commitment?

A: Yes, but written responses, while never legally binding, give us an indication of what we can expect and permit us to plan for our future. Please fill out an intent card indicating how you will respond even if you do not make a commitment. The response from the congregation will be a compelling story as we prepare for even more impactful ministry.

Remember, you are asked to consider two gifts as you complete the intent card: one commitment for the campaign (over three years), and one commitment to our ongoing church ministry (for the 2023-2024 ministry year).

Q: Will I be asked to give a specific amount?

A: You will be asked to prayerfully consider an amount for the campaign based on the gift chart to reach our goal. If every gift on the chart is fulfilled, we will exceed our goal.

Q: What if we don't hit the total \$2 million goal?

A: Our goal for this project is to “do it right” – to best serve the future of FLC while being wise stewards and not burdening our ministry budget. We anticipate there may be need for a short-term construction loan to move forward with construction as gifts are contributed over the next few years. With strong support from the congregation, we expect a minimal amount of debt overall. Our commitment is to minimize our indebtedness without compromising the integrity of the project or our ongoing ministries.



I am most excited about our Creating Space for Faith to Grow Campaign because, with God's grace, First Lutheran can continue to build a spiritually healthy congregation so we can make the lives of those around us better. – Renae Zimmer



Q: Why are we being asked to give to the annual ministry as well as the campaign at the same time?

A: The annual ministry of the congregation doesn't end just because we are improving our building for future ministry. It has been shown that congregation members prefer to consider their giving at one time and make both commitments. We do need to continue to grow our annual ministry, even while we take steps to fund our future with these capital expenditures.

Q: Do all gifts to the appeal have to be cash?

A: No. Gifts of property, grain, appreciated stock, required minimum distributions, mutual funds, in-kind gifts needed in property improvements, cash value from insurance policies or policy loan proceeds, certificates of deposit (CDs), bonds, and annuities are just some of the ways we can give. All these gifts may be subject to restrictions and limitations, so it is wise to consult your financial advisor or accountant.

Note: Contact Troy Brockmeier to make non-cash gifts. Important! Do not sell the asset yourself or you will be unable to avoid capital gains tax. If you are trying to capture a capital loss, you may want to sell the asset yourself. Please consult your tax advisor on the best approach for your own circumstances.

Q: What about giving from my IRA?

A: If you have an IRA, giving from your required minimum distribution is one of the best charitable vehicles for individuals ages 70.5 and older.

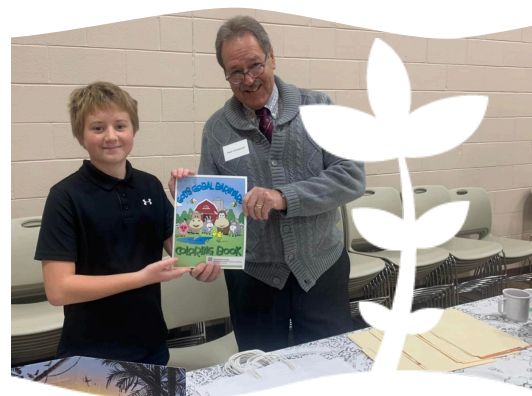
Q: What is the advantage of giving appreciated stocks or property?

A: You can avoid capital gains taxes and possibly also receive a tax deduction in the amount of the appreciated value.

Q: How do I make a gift of appreciated stock?

A: Have your broker transfer shares from your account to the church. The church's broker will sell the stock and you will receive gift credit for the average market value on the day it is transferred. Contact Troy Brockmeier for transfer information.

Thank you for being part of this exciting time in our congregation's history.



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