



1. Why are we conducting a building fund campaign now?

Grace has begun a long-term visioning process to discover what our future ministry will be. The **Build Us Up, Lord** program is the result of our awareness that we need to improve our building in order to answer God's call to that ministry. God has blessed us by using the need to repair our steeple, nearly 60 years since the laying of our cornerstone, as an opportunity to get a "jump start" on the next phase of our mission on Asylum Hill and beyond. The steeple repair, which has already begun, and installation of adequate lightning protection is the first of several planned projects. Next up are the repair of our parking and the steps to the front doors. At the same time, the console of our historic pipe organ urgently needs restoration.

Recently a team from Grace participated in an energy audit project. We have learned that a number of conservation measures can be put in place that would improve our lighting and water heating and save substantially in the long run.

Also, since many people come in from the parking lot through the back entrance, we would like to improve the safety, signage and appearance of that entry. We could list more that needs to be done—especially including long-term planning for the future maintenance and repair of our building. Now is the time to begin all this. Now is the time to move forward.

2. What exactly are we doing?

Build Us Up, Lord is a project to raise funds to carry out the building improvement plan. Why? So we can better serve those who are already here, and be ready to serve the new people who will join with us in the months and years ahead in ministry to our entire community. We are a welcoming church. We are a diverse church. With the proposed improvements we can continue to be an inclusive and welcoming church.

3. Why did we choose this theme?

Build Us Up, Lord, a hymn in the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (# 670) reflects what has always been at the heart of **Grace Lutheran Church**. Because God continues to bless this family of faith we pray that we will be able to continue to participate in God's work - building faith in Jesus Christ, building the body of Christ, building ministries that share the love of Christ. Physical building improvements are natural extensions of the spiritual building we have always done together through God's grace. These improvements are tools that will enable us to fulfill our mission to "focus on the cross by nurturing faith and serving others."

4. What are the goals of this campaign?

The spiritual goals for this campaign are to increase the awareness of God's grace to this congregation and to our community, and to invite growth in faithful discipleship. **Build Us Up, Lord** will be a success when we experience and express this kind of spiritual growth.

At the same time we really hope to raise enough money over a five-year period to provide sufficient funds to complete all the projects listed. So, **the basic five-year financial goal for Build Us Up, Lord is \$150,000—the "Challenge Goal" is \$290,000!**

5. Are these realistic financial goals?

Given the size of our congregation, our resources, the careful planning that is going into these projects and our desire to move forward, we believe the basic goal is very realistic.

In fact, the "Challenge Goal" is also realistic—it just is more challenging. We know it will take a great deal of faith, love and sacrifice from every person and

household that becomes involved. We also understand that this effort, the gifts and pledges we will bring, is over and above our regular giving to the ongoing mission and ministry of **Grace Lutheran**. Giving to the **Build Us Up, Lord** program is “extra-mile giving.”

6. Will my gift be significant enough to help?

The answer is this: **No gift is too small**. Certainly, conducting a capital fund effort during uncertain economic times is not an easy thing to do. But, because of our need to improve our church building and extend our ministry, turning back is not an option. The times we live in present an opportunity to take stock of our blessings, trust in God and decide what our priorities are. This is an opportunity to grow spiritually in our relationship to Jesus and to be wise stewards of the resources God has given us. Not all members will be able to pledge or give at the same level. Many small gifts are as important as a few large ones. The Bible teaches that we are to give proportionally as we are able.

7. Are we just raising money for ourselves, for Grace Lutheran Church?

No. Following the principles and teaching of Jesus we are going to tithe from the amount that is received. We will share 10% of these funds proportionately with

- The New England Synod Development Fund
- Calumet Lutheran Ministries
- Lutheran Social Services of New England In-Home Services
- The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
- ELCA World Hunger Appeal

As God blesses us, we want to share with others.

8. Will we invite others to participate in Build Us Up, Lord?

Yes, we are asking other congregations, foundations and local businesses to consider helping us financially in this effort because we believe in so doing they will be helping not only us but our whole surrounding community.

9. Specifically, what will it take to achieve the Challenge Goal of \$290,000 in gifts and pledges from members over a five-year period?

Probably a pattern of gifts something like this:

- 1 gift of \$25,000 (\$5,000 per year)
- 3 gifts of \$15,000 (\$3,000 per year)
- 7 gifts of \$10,000 (\$2,000 per year)
- 15 gifts of \$5,200 (\$20 per week over five-year period)

- 20 gifts of \$2,600 (\$10 per week over five-year period)
- Many gifts of less than \$10 per week over five-year period

10. Will I/we be encouraged to make a commitment?

Yes, everyone will be asked to make a commitment for the five-year giving phase of the program. A stated plan for giving has proven to be an excellent discipline for individuals and congregations. Individuals are helped to live up to their best intentions and congregations can plan their life and mission realistically and responsibly. Those who are not accustomed to this practice are urged to try it.

11. When will I/we be invited to make our commitment?

At worship on February 21, 2010—**Commitment Sunday for Build Us Up, Lord** at Grace Lutheran Church

12. How much should I/we give?

Joy is not complete when we only receive. We give because God first gave to us—God's love and sacrificial giving are contagious. Generosity enlivens us, because givers need to give.

Ultimately, your giving is between you and your Lord.

- Ask God for direction. Pray and meditate over a period of time and be open to the Spirit.
- Pray for the courage to grow greatly, to know the joy of generosity, to claim the promises of God.
- Reflect on your blessings from a generous God, and give from joy and gratitude.
- Read the information provided to you in the Sunday bulletin, newsletter articles, and this brochure. Hear our story and share the excitement with the other members and friends of Grace!
- Give until it feels great and takes your breath away! It will be the investment of your life!

13. How much time can I/we take to pledge to Build Us Up, Lord?

The commitment is for five years and is over and above your regular giving to the congregation. The response card that you will receive on **Commitment Sunday** will give you options on how to configure your gift, since not all people will want to give in the same way. Some will give one large, up-front gift while others will give a designated amount each week or month for the five-year period.

14. May I/we give stocks, real estate, insurance, or other gifts in kind in addition to cash?

Absolutely! You are encouraged to think of assets in addition to cash. For many people, this is the best way to give. Giving stocks, property, jewelry, cars, or other appreciated assets as a charitable donation is beneficial to you and the church.

If you think you would benefit from more information on this topic, call our ELCA Key Leader stewardship consultant, Pastor Michael Meier, at (715) 564-3299, or email to michaelmeier@wildblue.net.

15. What if my/our financial situation changes or I/we move out of the area before the end of the five-year giving period?

At any time during the giving phase, your commitment may be increased, decreased, extended or canceled by notifying our church office. If you should move out of the area, we hope you would become involved in another congregation and offer them your support. We will be honored and grateful if you are willing to fulfill your total **Build Us Up, Lord** commitment. But you are certainly under no obligation to do so.

No matter what your circumstances may be, we ask you to support the ministry of Grace Lutheran in your prayers and to remember that here you are always welcomed and loved.