

GOD'S PLAN...



Fund Appeal Campaign

January 2008

Transcends All Understanding

Calendar of Events



Congregational/Open Forum Meeting

January 28, 7 PM

Public Kick-Off

February 9-10
Church Services

Home Gatherings

February 10-March 10

Commitment Services

March 15-16
Church Services

First Fruits Offering

March 29-30
Church Services

Dear Friends,

St. Mark's Building Committee has a vision—a big, beautiful vision—a vision that will meet the pressing needs we face as a congregation for upgraded school facilities for our ministries at St. Mark's.

This vision will be set before our church family in many ways during the upcoming weeks. To do this, we need hundreds of helpers. Through direct involvement, every member of this congregation will be given the opportunity to grasp the vision.

The stewardship program will be identified as "God's Plan... Transcends All Understanding." This congregation has been faithful in meeting the challenges placed before it by the Holy Spirit. Those challenges have included, but are not confined to, building. To continue to fulfill the Lord's mission and ministry to this congregation and community, we are being challenged to build again.

I know you will respond in the tradition of St. Mark's when you are contacted to volunteer. This contact will come to you within weeks from a member of the Campaign Leadership Team. In preparation for those contacts, I encourage you to begin praying. Ask God for guidance on how and where you can volunteer to serve. If you will only ask, I promise you will receive an answer that will have positive influence on others and be personally rewarding. St. Mark's needs your participation!

Truly, we enjoy the fruits of those who have gone before us. I am confident we will build on their tradition.

In God's Love,

Pastor Werner

St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church

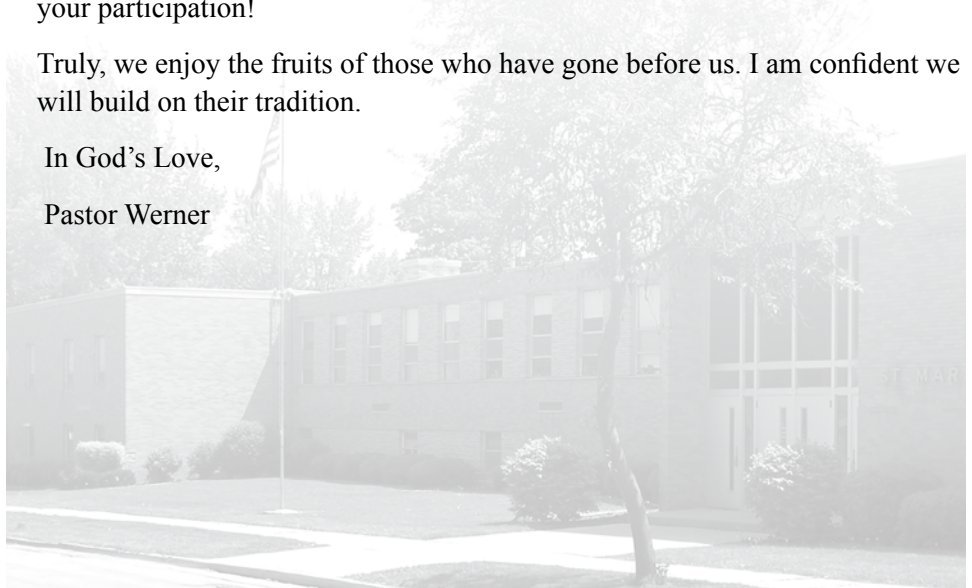
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From lambs to lions

Deciding on a theme and logo takes a bit of brainstorming and self-examination. As our campaign committee reflects on St. Mark's—our church, our school, and our people—it's easy to see God has blessed us very much.

God's Plan...Transcends All Understanding

"We're the St. Mark's Lions," says Amy Nelson, a member of the committee. "When we decided on a theme, we looked for lions in the Bible. Isaiah 11:6 is a verse that really stood out. We have a lot of questions about our school and how we're going to fund it, but knowing God has a plan provides an answer to everything."

Just as we can't fully comprehend the image of peace and harmony Isaiah portrays in this verse, neither can we fully understand God's plan for St. Mark's. Yet, whatever his plan is, we know and trust it will be very good.

With this confidence and with prayers for God's guidance, St. Mark's planning committees have spent more than two years researching, visiting schools and meeting with architects. Together, with input from congregation members, they have developed a plan they believe will best benefit St. Mark's.

We pray God guides our decisions in this campaign. We trust God will continue to bless our church, our school, and our people.



The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

St. Mark's students and teachers, circa 1910



Generation to generation

More than 150 years ago, the members of St. Mark's recognized a need for a Lutheran elementary school in Watertown and took action. Since that time, this congregation has been privileged to take many successive steps to further support that decision.

Once again in 2008, through our upcoming school renovation project and related capital fund appeal, the entire congregation has an opportunity to express thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon St. Mark's through its elementary school. At the same time, we will have the ability to once again reaffirm those earlier decisions and to also have an impact on the quality of elementary education provided by St. Mark's for many years to come.

—Randy Meis, Campaign Co-Director

Meet our consultant



St. Mark's is conducting our fund appeal under the assistance of Cargill Associates Stewardship Consultants. Our representative is Dr. Scott McKenzie, senior vice president of Cargill's church division.

Dr. McKenzie has spent over 20 years assisting churches with capital fund appeals. Through a number of positions he has assisted financial campaigns in churches ranging in size from 50 to 2,000 members.

Dr. McKenzie, his wife, Joni, and their two sons, Brian and Jason live in York, Pennsylvania.

We are very pleased to have Cargill and Dr. McKenzie assisting us in the scheduling and coordination of our capital fund appeal.

A dedicated and enthusiastic team leads the way!

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"We're helping with this campaign because—to borrow a cliché—we know the children of St. Mark's are this congregation's future. We owe it to them to give them a building that maximizes their spiritual, mental, and physical development."
 —John and Kari Deglow, together with their son Allen

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Have questions? Looking to volunteer? Contact any of the directors for more information!



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Return Service Requested

Our school today, our needs for the future

Our growth

- Current enrollment: 260 students
- Baptisms: 50 children annually
- New families: continued growth annually

Our needs

- Internal/Mechanical
 - Heating: Lack of efficiency and reliability
 - Ventilation: Obsolete, difficult to repair
 - Electrical: Outdated for today's technology
 - Plumbing: Dated 1950s, needs upgrading
 - Overall energy/efficiency: needs upgrading
 - Building security: needs upgrading
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): does not meet accessibility requirements
- Space Needs
 - K-8th Grades: Classrooms at full capacity
 - Specialty Rooms: Today's educational standards require specifically designed rooms
 - 3-4 Year-Old Education: Increased demand creates need for additional space

- Space Needs, cont.
 - Extended Care/Day Care: Increased demand creates need for additional space
- Athletic Needs
 - 1950s gymnasium outdated for today's elementary sports programs

Our proposed plan

Through the Cargill survey, members expressed their opinion whether to renovate or build, and their intention of stewardship. Based on this information, St. Mark's has chosen to renovate and add to our current building. This will include:

- Estimated cost \$3.6 - 4 million
- 8,750 sq. ft. gymnasium/activity center, including stage and storage
- 8,600 sq. ft. addition, including floor offices, health room, media center and computer lab
- Current gym converted into six classrooms, music room and music practice room