



## Living, Giving, Thriving

### Thank You Bethlehem!

Here is a heartfelt “Thank you, so very much!” — from all the leaders of Living, Giving, Thriving, from all those serving in elected leadership positions at Bethlehem, from your staff and from me — for the remarkably generous response to our Living, Giving, Thriving campaign last fall. At a time when our economy was as bad as it has been since the Great Depression, and a time when the Star Tribune noted declining giving to churches, Bethlehem stepped up with nearly \$2 million dollars in pledges over and above regular giving for this campaign. Wow! Way to go, people of God!

As you will read in this newsletter, your giving makes a difference: it allows our congregation to do things we wouldn't otherwise be able to do. And, when you get right down to it, mortgage, building and outreach all translate in one way or another into the Holy Spirit using us to help bring people into relationship with God — and that is what we are all about here at Bethlehem!

Thanks, once again, so very much! As I often say, and passionately mean, it is a wonderful privilege to share ministry with you all!

Blessings, Peace and Joy!

Pastor Chris Nelson

#### Campaign Goals

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

And So It Begins... Living, Giving, Thriving aims to help us bring 20,000 people into a new relationship with Christ by 2020. Today, pledges for the three-year campaign are approximately \$1.95 million, with a continued goal of \$2.5 million.

#### 1. Connect Our Community

- A task force was formed to create the strategy to meet our “kingdom goal” of 20,000 new relationships with Christ by 2020. The 2020 Vision Team\* has recommended that Bethlehem call a new pastor, directly connected to the Capital Campaign, for a three-year term. The new pastor will focus on new communities and technology — “outside the walls” of Bethlehem.
- Bethlehem is starting to develop strategic partnerships with other churches, both locally and regionally, to create new and renewed communities. We are learning how other congregations are already achieving the kinds of growth we expect to generate. These are very exciting opportunities! Expect to hear more about them in the coming months.
- We are restructuring staff commitments to more effectively equip members to live out faith.

\*Sandra Anderson, Amy Apperson, Sara Ausman, Jo Bauman, Tom Kuder, Kris Tostengard Michel, Chris Nelson, Pam Paulson, Mary Pechauer, Jeff Seidel, Steve Tjeltveit

#### 2. Maintain the Facility

- We have signed a contract with a heating/cooling contractor and are currently testing new circulating fans in the sanctuary.
- Storm drain work is on the schedule for later this year.
- Add air conditioning to the Commons area this spring.

#### 3. Redirect Our Resources

- Current pledges will allow us to fulfill our goal of paying down mortgage debt. Payments will be made as gifts are received.



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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## Your Giving Makes a Difference

Living, Giving, Thriving is already changing Bethlehem and the future of our community. If you have not already made your commitment, please consider doing so. There is a place for everyone to help out. If you can't make a financial commitment, donate your time and talent. Contact the church office for more information.

*"2020 Vision is more than a program or a 'campaign.' It's a way to inspire each of us to become a living invitation to the hope of Jesus Christ."*

— Jo Bauman

*2020 Vision Team*

*Living, Giving, Thriving*



## WAYS TO GIVE

There are several ways you can give to the Living, Giving, Thriving capital campaign:

- Electronic giving through Simply Giving allows you to make contributions online, on a one-time or recurring basis.
- Weekly offering envelopes are a great way to combine your giving with attendance at worship services. They can also be mailed if you can't make it to church during a given week.
- Gifts of appreciated stocks can be an excellent way to share God's gifts.

Please contact Carolyn in the office at [cogrady@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:cogrady@bethlehem-church.org) or call 612-312-3402 if you would like more information. You can also visit our website at [www.bethlehem-church.org/giving/ways-give](http://www.bethlehem-church.org/giving/ways-give).