

GOD'S FAMILY SET FREE

Dates to mark on your calendar

Oct 20 - Nov 2 -
Attend a Home Gathering and learn more about the campaign

Oct 27—Begins three weeks of emphasis on Stewardship in the sermons and Bible Class

Nov 10—Pledge Event in the Community Center

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- As of the printing of this newsletter we already have over 30 volunteers working on the campaign.
- Once the campaign is complete we will have paid down a sizable portion of our debt to free up significant resources for God's ministry at Bethlehem.
- The campaign will culminate with home gatherings for all members and a pledge dinner at our Community Center.

ISSUE #3—STEWARDSHIP, OCTOBER 20, 2019



HOME GATHERINGS WILL BRING MEMBERS TOGETHER

You are receiving this newsletter a few days after we have concluded the first emphasis of the *Building God's Family* campaign - spiritual renewal. Now it is time for the stewardship phase. One of the most important things we will do is to gather in members homes for fellowship and information about the campaign.

A number of our members have graciously agreed to open up their homes to host Home Gatherings so that we can all learn about the *Building God's Family* campaign, share our thoughts and come together to support the building program.

You should have already received an invitation in the mail to one of the scheduled Home Gatherings. Please make every effort to attend the Gathering. If you cannot attend, please contact your host or the church office to find another Gathering that is a better fit with your schedule. We want all of our Bethlehem families to attend these important meetings. Here is a peek at the meeting agenda: Chit chat, hand out campaign brochure, view the campaign video, talk about hopes and dreams for Bethlehem Lutheran, and a brief Bible study on giving. See you there!

THE CASE STATEMENT - KEEPING IN MIND WHAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS ALL ABOUT

Since we know that "the Gospel cannot be bound (2 Tim 2:9), this campaign is about freeing us to more effectively do our mission of building the family of God. It frees up resources for us to serve and love well. It gets us all pulling together in the same direction. It proves that we can go through the hard times and take the next steps into the future.

We have all been led by God to be at Bethlehem. He has arranged us, the parts of His body, just as He wants (1 Cor. 12), and the body is still developing. At this Bethlehem, there is more room in the inn!

This campaign will enable the Bethlehem faith family to continue to "do what God is blessing" - to serve and connect more with our community, with our members, and with our God!





OUR COMMUNITY CENTER IS TRULY A CENTER FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Our Community Center has played host to many amazing community events and we have several groups that use it regularly. Some groups that use it and other community events include: Aloha Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Aloha High School AP Testing, Guide Dogs for the Blind, VBS, Trivia Night, Family Promise, Washington County Commission on Children & Family, Crosswalk, Beaverton School District, Our Redeemer Music Program, Alleluia Children's Theatre, Love INC, Christmas Food Box, and Clothing Drives.



"Now if we are able to pay down a significant portion of the mortgage on the Community Center, we will "set free" funds that are currently used for monthly mortgage payments. Funds that can be used for other ministry purposes and activities. It's exciting to think about the opportunities – and challenges – that God will place in our path as we seek to do what He is blessing and resourcing us to do."



HOW AND WHEN DO I MAKE A PLEDGE?

Here is the process we will follow for making our pledges:

1. Every member will receive an invitation to the Pledge Event which includes a pledge card for review and for your family to discuss its commitment toward making our \$500,000 goal.
2. There will be pledge cards at each place setting at the Pledge Event on November 10th. We will all make our pledges then.
3. Do not fill out your pledge until the end of pledge event. We want the fellowship and speakers at the event to move us.
4. If you cannot attend the pledge event, members will contact you to remind you to turn in a pledge.

Giving Cheerfully

In a book, a missionary pastor describes the day when “the fetters on the little constricted box in my heart broke.” While walking the market place in an old Kisumu market in Africa, this missionary notes that his “natural inclination (and that of everyone I’ve ever known) is to negotiate, to walk away, to offer half, no matter what the asking price.” It is man’s (and woman’s) natural inclination to only offer half. “Offering half” simply is another way of saying, “offering less.” We always want to offer less and to keep more. That’s because of the “fetters on the little constricted box” in our heart.

To bring us all to the point of “offering more” many would use God’s Word of Law. The Law with its “you shall”, “you should”, “you ought” phrases can guilt many a person into giving more. But that kind of giving is without joy. It’s not cheerful. The Lord wants us to give “cheerfully.” Cheerful givers give because they want to give. Givers who want to give, give more, and give more often.

The Law can’t make us into “cheerful givers.” It only makes us “guilty givers.” Cheerful giving is the fruit of the Gospel of God. Cheerful giving comes from the faith and knowledge that God is good, that He’s provided (providing) all that we need to support this body and life, and that from His bounty we can give back to Him and to our neighbors. When faith is clinging to God’s bounty in Christ, there is no worry about money. Instead, there is joy. With joyful hearts, rooted in the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified, God’s people can return to Him a tithe, a special offering, a gift, not out of guilt but joy.

This missionary, fetters broken and his heart opened by the gospel, shopped the marketplace. And rather than “offering half” turned the tables and stunned a local shop owner. Eyeing a beautifully carved stone box he asked the man, “how much.” “Three dollars,” was the reply. “No, can’t do it,” retorted the missionary. Back and forth went the two, until finally the missionary said, “I’ll give you five dollars!” He offered and gave more than half, more than cost, more than he needed to. He joyfully gave because he had been set free from guilt and was free in Christ.

Indeed, God is merciful to those who repent. Cheerful givers delight His heart because cheerful giving flows from faith in the forgiveness of sins. It is the sign of the heart renewed in Christ, the source of all joy, even the joy of giving.



FAQ'S FOR THE CAMPAIGN

Q. What is the purpose of the *Building God's Family* campaign?

A. The complete case statement for the campaign is on the front page of this newsletter, but in short, we want to pay off as much debt as possible so we are having a capital campaign to inform, inspire and move our members to make over-and-above gifts to pay down our debt.

Q. What will paying down the debt do for us?

A. A rough calculation is that every dollar of principal paid down results in ten cents of interest saved. So if we raise \$100,000 we will have an extra \$10,000 a year for more new ministry.

Q. What is our goal?

A. Our goal is to raise \$500,000. This will take some work on our part but it will provide us around \$50,000 a year for added ministry. We can do a lot of good things for the Gospel with that sort of funding.

Q. How long does the Capital Campaign last?

A. The *Building the Family of God* campaign will be very active for about three months. During that time we will

be learning how to become stronger spiritually and how to use biblical stewardship principles in all of our giving. We want all of our members to be able to make God-pleasing pledges that are based on both His Law and His Gospel.

Q. When will I be asked to make a pledge?

A. We are having a wonderful Pledge Dinner after church on Sunday, November 10. There will be an opportunity at this dinner for all members to bring their pledge cards forward. You may also mail in your pledge card or bring it in to the church office at any time.

Q. When should I start contributing toward my pledge?

A. This is a three year pledge campaign, with contributions scheduled to begin in January, 2020. Each year you will receive special monthly envelopes to make your contributions. Of course, you may start to make your contributions at any time, and make them as you are able throughout the three year period.

Bob Fossum to Speak at our Pledge Event

We are so excited to welcome back Bob Fossum as our Pledge Event speaker. Bob will share a message taking us from where Bethlehem has been in ministry to where we can be "set free" to go. Join your fellow members in the Community Center on Sunday, November 10, after the late service for a dinner, inspiring moments and an opportunity to give your pledge for the Building God's Family campaign.

Bob Fossum began serving as Family Life Minister at Bethlehem in April of 1999. His wife Robin was also on Bethlehem's staff and together they served until 2014, when they left to accept Executive leadership positions at the Northwest District, LCMS. Bob served as the Director of Family Ministry and Robin was the Director of Early Childhood Ministry at the District Office. Bob began his ministry career in 1975 and has served as Lutheran School teacher, Director of Christian Education, Camp Director and Family Minister. Bob and Robin retired in December of 2018 and currently reside in Bend, OR where they enjoy camping and hiking. Their retirement bucket list includes visiting and exploring our National Parks.