

October 1, 2019

Dear Members of Bethlehem,

As you know by now, our congregation has entered into a Capital Campaign called *Set Free to Build God's Family*. Here is what it 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!

I hope you will agree that any sort of stewardship commitment by you and me needs to be grounded in spiritual renewal in the means of grace by which God has redeemed us and kept us in the one true faith. As Scripture says:

God saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

God brought us into the faith by His word and sacraments and He renews our faith by the same.

For the next three weeks we will be gathering together as a congregation to make a recommitment to use God's word and sacraments in our lives and then use that new found strength to make a stewardship commitment to pay down our debt so that God can do even more in our midst. Listen to God's word in the sermons, continue to pray the 90 days of petitions and listen to your fellow members as they share testimonies of God's work in their lives through word and sacrament.

Please read over the enclosed booklet on how God uses the means of grace to renew us, review the Spiritual Exercises Booklet and start thinking about how you can increase your use of God's word and sacraments and please place the enclosed prayer tent by your bed or somewhere else that will make it easy for you to use each day.

We will have copies of the Spiritual Renewal Pledge Sheet for you at church to fill out on Sunday, October 20. If you cannot be there that day we hope you will fill out the enclosed one and mail it to church.

It is going to be a wonderful journey that we are embarking on. We greatly anticipate the good things God is going to do among us.

Pastor Jeffrey Shearier

Jim Cullen
Campaign Director