

## WHAT ARE THE PROJECTS?

### Tithe to ELCA & Partners

With our *Open Arms* campaign, we established a practice of giving as scripture teaches us all – giving the first 10% to the Lord. For this campaign, half of the tithe will be given to the SEIA Synod to restore mission support cut from the budget; the other half be given equally to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and LSI Refugee Resettlement.

### New South Membrane Roof

The flat roof just south of the sanctuary is leaking and past due for replacement. We replaced the flat roof on the north side in 2012 and have tried to budget for the south side every year since 2013. We have bids for this project on hand.



### Air Handler for Sanctuary

The church facility uses multiple systems to heat and cool different parts of the building. The main boiler system was installed in the newer building in 2001. Other components have been serviced as needed. The oldest is the system for the sanctuary. The air handler is what draws warm/cool air from the boiler or chiller to heat and cool the space. The current unit was installed when the sanctuary was built in the early 1960's. Replacement parts are no longer available, but repairs are long overdue.



### Paint and Repairs

The sanctuary was painted in 2018. The rest of the building needs paint and repairs to walls. We plan to use a combination of professional and volunteer labor.



### Signs

The sign on the east side of the sanctuary (Elm St.) has had a soccer-ball sized hole in it for years. It is a poor witness to the community. The sign that was on the west side (Des Moines St) had to be removed when we had sewer work completed in 2018. Both signs need to be replaced with ones that are current and communicative.



### Remodeling & Renovations for Mission

Creating better space for the food pantry, youth, and other programs of the congregation and community is already in process as we re-purpose space used by the preschool. We will need to furnish, repair, and do some remodeling to make the space serve our mission and our values as a congregation.

### Heating & Cooling

The controls (thermostats, computer modules, etc.) that coordinate the temperature and energy usage for different parts of the building are unreliable and do not reliably link the different systems currently in place. The system shuts down and locks up with frequency and leaves us scrambling to restore heating and cooling. We had planned to do this as part of Open Arms but did not have enough funding.

### Security Project

Our Safety and Security Team has made recommendations to address general needs and the growing concern about attacks, violence, and active shooter situations. The Council has reviewed policy on how to handle situations. The team's recommendations include the installation of cameras and securing entrances and stairwells. A new access system to more efficiently and economically manage who can get into the building, adding security cameras in strategic locations, and a building re-key are part of this plan.



### East Door Replacement

The casements and doors at the east end of the building, near the chancel area of the sanctuary, are rusted, patched, and do not meet code requirements. They also need to be re-fit to be more secure. We have put this project off for several years.



### Bell Choir Expansion

Our bell choir has been growing both in number and in the depth of the music being shared with the congregation. Adding an octave of bells will allow more range (notes played) and more people to participate.



### Debt Reduction

Funds we receive beyond what is needed to accomplish the items listed above will be dedicated to paying off debt.

## WHY ARE WE TITHING OUR OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS. GIFTS?

God blesses us with gifts – every single thing we have. We give thanks. The Bible clearly calls us to share what we receive and to discipline ourselves not to think of ourselves first. So, in keeping with the model of stewardship we teach and believe, and in keeping with our value of “extravagant generosity,” we will share the first 10% of what we receive with God’s people beyond our walls. Three partner agencies have been selected to receive the tithe:

- **Southeastern Iowa Synod** – The Synod and ELCA ask congregations to share 15% of their income with the wider Church. Many years ago, our congregation gave near this amount. In recent years we have shrunk from 9%, to 8%, and now we have dropped to 6%. This extra gift of 50% of the tithe will restore us to above 7%.
- **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** – This is one of the most efficient and effective hunger ministries in the world. They recently gave our food pantry a grant.
- **Lutheran Services of Iowa Refugee Resettlement Program** – This program is one of the most effective in the state. It includes citizenship classes, English language instruction, job training, and many other programs that help refugees find hope and a home.



# OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS.