



## **Open Arms: Grow, Share, Serve Capital Campaign**

### **Questions and Answers Regarding Disbursement of Gifts, Logistics and Priorities**

#### **Open Arms Campaign: The Need & Plan for Disbursing Gifts**

##### **What are we trying to accomplish by raising all this money?**

Over the last five years we have worked very hard to articulate who we are as a congregation and why we are here in this world and community. Our values, beliefs, mission and vision work have helped us discern God's call to us to be about the business of Sharing God's Love by becoming the Open Arms of Jesus to one another, the community and world. This campaign connects actions to those words.

This campaign will raise \$1.2 million to:

- Share our generosity by tithing (giving the first 10% as scripture teaches) all gifts (\$120,000)
- Revitalize our worship and welcoming space (\$350,000)
- Grow our Mission Trust Fund (\$50,000)
- Develop a second site for ministry and worship (\$380,000)
- Reduce our debt (\$300,000)

##### **In what order will these projects and priorities be addressed?**

- 10% of every gift received will be shared with our four identified mission partners for the duration of the campaign.
- 4% of every gift will be set aside for deposit in the Mission Trust Fund investments until we reach the goal of \$50,000.
- The revitalization and renewal of our current building and worship space will be funded first, until we reach \$350,000.
- The development of space for mission at a second site will follow the building renewal projects until we reach \$380,000.
- Reduction of debt will be the final project funded.

#### **Open Arms Campaign: Sanctuary & Building Plans**

##### **What exactly are we planning to do to the building and worship space?**

We need to do a variety of things that address functional and aesthetic issues that keep us from welcoming, witnessing, and worshipping.

- Fix the building so it reflects the congregation's vibrancy and commitment to mission. This includes repairs to multiple roofs - including the sanctuary roof which leaks badly and must be replaced.
- Address HVAC system and other mechanical issues that are a result of worn-out parts and old systems and that make our system less efficient than they need to be.

- Move the baptismal font to a central location so that it can be seen when we baptize, does not obstruct space needed for music groups, and communicates the centrality of the sacrament to our daily lives.
- Update and upgrade the chancel area in the front of the sanctuary to enhance visibility, communication, space for choirs and music groups and create flexibility for large groups to perform.
- Update and modernize our projection and audio capabilities in the sanctuary so that leaders can see what is on the screen, microphones don't howl, leaders can hear what is being said and we gain the ability to video and then "stream" our worship.
- Renovate and expand our 50- and 30-year-old restrooms making them fully accessible to everyone, addressing drainage issues and remove smelly bathrooms as an impediment to welcome.
- Make our Narthex space more welcoming so that our first impression to people does not communicate the past, but embraces the future. Much of the furniture in the narthex is decades old and in poor shape; the carpet is worn and dated; woodwork is chipped, cracked and broken.
- Update and repair our external signage which has holes in it and does not communicate what people driving by need to know.
- Retool kitchen with modern appliances and storage that will allow us to cook food, not just warm it; and store food and supplies in a safe, healthy manner.
- A very apparent need was sanctuary lighting. This project was accomplished by a generous gift for that purpose. Thanks be to God!
- Another item already checked off our list was removing pews in the choir loft and replacing with choir chairs.

## **Open Arms Campaign: Order of Improvements and Bathrooms**

### **In what order will improvements be undertaken?**

The Facilities Implementation Team, accountable to the Congregation Council, will have the authority to schedule, prioritize and make adjustments to the plan. They will need to take into account the actual gifts received because the Feasibility Study revealed there was little support to borrow. So, they will need to balance a need to move forward with the funds on hand. Season of the year, permits and plans, and other variables will also dictate the actual schedule. Some improvements to the chancel (altar area) are relatively low in cost and can be done quickly. Other major repairs and remodels will take longer to plan and to receive adequate funding. The team is made up of our trusted brothers and sisters in Christ and are people with expertise in the building trades and construction. They will provide the guidance and leadership needed to prioritize and implement in a manner that makes sense and is achievable.

### **What will the bathrooms look like?**

Since the feasibility study did not suggest we could borrow to get plans done before the capital campaign, the actual plans for the bathrooms and other major items will need to wait until we have the money to consult architects and contractors. The congregation will be kept "in the loop" as plans progress. They will be inviting, functional, and above all, accessible.

## **Open Arms Campaign: Tithing Our Gifts and the Mission Trust Fund**

### **Why are we tithing all our Open Arms Capital Appeal Gifts? Shouldn't this money "stay" here?**

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; 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.

Four partner agencies have been selected to receive 25% of the tithe:

- Mosaic of Central Iowa - Local agency that ministers to those with intellectual disabilities. They worship with us, and we support the group homes in various ways.
- ELCA Fund for Leaders - A fund that gives scholarships to those becoming pastors and leaders to make sure that they are not strapped with huge debt. The funds will be designated for those persons pursuing ministry from the Southeast Iowa Synod.
- ELCA World Hunger Appeal - One of the most efficient and effective hunger ministries in the world. They recently gave our food pantry a grant.
- Mission Congregation at Anamosa Prison - Our synod is starting a new congregation inside the prison at Anamosa to bring the good news of Christ to those who are incarcerated. This is a prime response to Jesus' message to "proclaim release to the captive."

### **Why do we need to grow our Mission Trust Fund by \$50,000?**

According to our bylaws, this fund cannot disburse scholarships or grants each year until the balance reaches \$100,000. We currently have about half that amount. The fund is not growing because folks don't get excited about planning gifts for it until it is actually making grants and scholarships. It is a kind of Catch-22. By infusing funds to make it active, we will be in a better position to grow it to make an impact in the world through grants that touch lives with the love of Christ through expanded mission work, teaching of seminarians, and planting new congregations. Until it becomes active, the money just sits dormant. We want to bring it to life.

### **Open Arms Campaign: Finding More Space for Mission**

#### **Why do we need to develop a second site for Ministry?**

When we did the feasibility study in 2014, the congregation was not ready to consider building to address our need for more space. We do church school in shifts. Our prime worship hour (9:30 am) is at or above 80% capacity consistently. We have established a food pantry that is needed in the community, but only has room to let one person at a time get groceries. The others, already feeling humiliated, need to wait. Our adult education program struggles to find space for classes. Meeting space is often unavailable due to heavy building use from community groups. We need room.

If we cannot augment our ministry space through building, then renting space is our next option. If we can't rent more space for the food pantry, we will need to claim half the fellowship hall for that ministry, which will cramp us even more.

Additionally, there are growing numbers of people in our community who will not search us out where we are or come into a conventional church to worship. By finding alternative space for worship, we can attract people who will not come to a "church" AND expand the seats we have available at the prime worship hour.

Finally, as Ankeny races toward 60,000 people (five new families a day) the southwest part of the community is seeing lots of growth. Even the city is making plans to put civil buildings in the Prairie Trail area. Few if any churches are addressing this growth as all the new church buildings sit on the far north side. If we are not bold in our resolve to take the gospel to those who need it, others will, once again, take our place.

### **What will the new space look like? What will we do there?**

In part this will depend on the success of the campaign. Renting 5,000 square feet of retail space can cost anywhere from \$100K-\$300K over three years. In addition, it will likely be necessary to remodel and equip the space to work to greater and lesser degrees including connecting the sites technologically. There are varying setups for utilities and services. Finally, we will need some way to have staff present at the site enough to make the site “alive.” A great deal will depend on where the site is located and the nature of the space.

Ideally, we will solve the food pantry space, either by placing the pantry itself off site, or by moving other ministries off site to make more room in our current location. Ideally, we would have a space that would allow us to worship in an emerging pattern that makes sense to a different part of our community that we currently do not reach. Whether the space has a kitchen or not will play into its use. The leaders of the congregation will keep the congregation up to date and involved in the process of shaping this expansion of our ministry as we begin to see what financial resources are available through the campaign.

