

Issue 1 | February 9, 2016

Campaign Kick-Off

PAID IN FULL



Sunday, Feb. 14
Kick-Off Sunday

Monday, Feb. 15
Start 100 Days of Prayer

Sunday, Feb. 28
Begin Wilderness Journey

Saturday, March 5
Prayer Vigil

Sunday, March 13
Spiritual Commitment
Sunday

March 20-April 2
Campaign Break

April 3-April 16
Home Gatherings

Sunday, May 1
Pledge Event

Sunday, May 22
Celebration Sunday

The Paid in Full Campaign

The scenes have become familiar.

Large groups gathered in Luther Hall. People talking in the Fireside Room or drinking coffee in the Courtyard. Parishioners browsing books in the library or attending a Bible study in the classrooms. Sunday School students going to class upstairs. People pressing a button for the elevator.

Back in 2006, these scenes existed only in the imagination. They became a reality with the help of a multimillion-dollar capital campaign, *That We May Tell the Next Generation*, which was launched that year. The new addition at St. John's was completed in 2009, with the help of God and many generous gifts. It's been a real blessing.

But we have some unfinished business. We still owe a debt on the project, and for that reason, we're embarking on a new capital campaign, *Paid in Full*. The goal: \$1,000,000.

Voters approved the campaign last fall after reviewing the current status of our loan. As of December 2015, our balance was \$931,664, which works out to a monthly payment of around \$6800 (\$3400 of which is interest). That's a big payment, and it may get bigger. Our current interest rate (4.375%) is locked in until 2023. If the loan isn't paid off by then, we'll have to negotiate new terms for remaining balance.

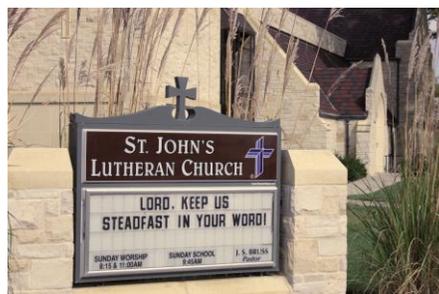
The *Paid in Full* campaign is designed to help free us from our debt, once and for all – to be paid in full.

That's already our spiritual reality. We're aiming to make it our financial reality, too. With God's help and your support – be it prayers, time, ideas, and/or financial gifts – we can do this.

"He [Christ] died for me. He made His righteousness mine and made my sin His own; and if He made my sin His own, then I do not have it, and I am free."

Martin Luther, Scholia on Romans, 1515-1516

Campaign Has Two Phases: Spiritual and Stewardship



The *Paid in Full* campaign is being guided by Wittenberg Church Consultants from Naperville, IL. One of the reasons St. John's chose the Wittenberg team is the two-phase approach to their program – *Spiritual* and *Stewardship*.

The *Paid in Full* campaign has clear financial goals, but you won't hear about stewardship for the first month of the campaign. Instead, we'll take that time to examine where we stand spiritually and determine where we want to make changes. Wittenberg calls this period of spiritual renewal our "Time in the Wilderness." You'll soon be receiving a booklet describing spiritual exercises that will help you strengthen your faith as well as a "Spiritual Pledge Sheet" to complete and turn in on Spiritual Pledge Sunday, March 13.

After we focus on spiritual renewal, we'll begin the stewardship phase of the program, which will consist of Bible studies on Sunday mornings, special sermons, short talks by our members, home gatherings, an inspirational video, the campaign brochure, and special campaign events.

Check out the campaign schedule of dates on page 1 of this newsletter and plan now to participate in as many *Paid in Full* events as possible!

Looking Ahead: 100 Days of Prayer

Included with the first campaign mailing is a booklet called "100 Days of Prayer," which contains a very short prayer petition for each day of the *Paid in Full* campaign as well as reminders of important events.

Beginning on Monday, February 15th, we're asking each of our members to take a minute each day to add the daily petition to their individual or family prayer time. All of us will be praying together – every day for 100 days.

For now, please take a minute to think about where you can keep the book handy during the 100 days of the *Paid in Full* campaign. If you think that an extra copy might make your prayer life easier, contact the church office.

This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

ONE MORE NOTE ON PRAYER

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 5, when St. John's will be holding a 12-hour Prayer Vigil. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

Meet Our Campaign Consultants

Wittenberg Church Consultants specializes in campaigns that are Christ-centered, focused on Word and Sacrament, and "genuinely Lutheran."

The Rev. Dr. Tim Rossow is heading up the preparations and training and has written many of the materials that will be used in the campaign at St. John's. Pastor Rossow has served in the pastoral ministry for over 25 years and received his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Church Organization from Concordia, Fort Wayne.

Donna Linnemeyer has done congregational program administration for the past twenty years and has a degree in Business Administration.

Pastor Rossow and Donna Linnemeyer have conducted and designed stewardship programs for their own congregation and now share their expertise with other churches. They bring the unique perspective of "having sat where you're sitting" to the campaign process. They truly enjoy sharing their insights and helping congregations with planning, renewal and stewardship programs.

Says Pastor Rossow, "Early on we found that the most important component in a campaign is spiritual growth. Our goal is to get every member at St. John's to examine where they stand in relation to the cross of Christ. Once that happens, everything else falls into place."

Campaign Team Leaders

Dennis Hintz
Word and Sacrament Renewal

Bev Sparks
Prayer

Mark and Linda Pierce
Advance Commitment

Kris Bruss
Communication

Angie Grittman
Food & Fellowship

Bethany Woelmer
Children and Youth

Sherry Fergel
Children and Youth

Eileen Klumpp
Mailing

Dave and Leanne Weems
Home Gatherings

Yvonne Berry
Commitment

TBA
Follow-up

FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS



Andy Grittman

I can't tell you how excited I am to be working on this campaign. As Board of Stewardship chair I realize the positive impact this campaign will have on finances at St. John's for the next 10-15 years! It will be great to get this debt paid off for good and be able to consider new options for enhancing the ministry here.



Brianna Landon

I'm thrilled to be part of this capital campaign. Our fellowship events have demonstrated the importance of the new addition, and paying off the debt from that project will open up opportunities to continue strengthening our ministry here at St. John's. I look forward to working with all of you to achieve this ambitious goal.

Campaign Case Statement

I walk into this building and I am in awe. This is church. God is here in the preaching of Christ crucified, who paid our debt in full.

St. John's is home. Some of us have seen grandparents buried and grandchildren baptized here. Some have just arrived and are only beginning to appreciate the richness of our heritage. The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful place, this home of ours.

Our legacy at St. John's is rich, but we're burdened with debt. That burden weighs us down, limits our options, and keeps us from moving forward.

Paying off the debt will free us to do more of what we do best: teach the faith, preach God's Word, and advance God's mission in the capital city and to the far corners of the globe. Together, we can work to keep St. John's vibrant for generations to come.

Let's leave the debt behind, so we can move ahead – paid in full!



Quiet on the Set...Action!

Watch for a brief burst of video cameras around St. John's as our *Paid in Full* campaign kicks off. We'll be making a short video and producing a campaign brochure, both of which will give us the opportunity to tell the story of St. John's: who we are, where we've been, and where we're going.

YOU are an important part of that story. Please don't be shy about participating if asked!



QUESTIONS?

Contact Campaign Coordinator
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OR dgraversen@stjlcms.org



You can also contact any of the team leaders listed in this newsletter (pictured at left).