

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Important Dates to Remember

- Continue “90 Days of Prayers.”
- If you still have your pledge form at home, fill it out and bring it to church or mail it in as soon as possible.
- Remember, if you are not in a position to make a financial pledge at this time, your pledge to support the campaign in prayer and with your time and talents is just as important. So please turn a pledge form as soon as possible.

Sunday, April 14

- Attend Celebration Event
- Come to church with your Celebration Offering and help us rejoice in God’s blessings.

Log On!

Check out our link on the Redeemer Church & School website home page for updated information about the campaign!

www.redeemerstuart.com



Our Home Gatherings and the Pledge Banquet certainly were fun, upbeat experiences for all those who participated. We were able to mix and mingle; we were treated to delicious food; we were entertained; and we did all of this in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We hope you were able to take part in most of the *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* campaign events. If you did, then you have received the full benefit of learning all about why we started this campaign and what we hope to do with the funds that are pledged and given.

Take a look at the case statement once again (see page 4). It explains why we are doing this capital campaign.

We are in the final stretch now. If you have not yet decided how to respond to this campaign, please spend some time in thoughtful prayer in the next few weeks. If you have already made a spiritual pledge last month and a financial pledge this month, we thank you!

Our next gathering, the Celebration Event, will take place on April 14, between services during fellowship time. Please join us as we celebrate God’s amazing blessings on our *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* campaign. By then, we will have a total of all of the pledges that have been made so far.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please do so by April 11 so it can be included in the total announced. Extra pledge forms and campaign giving envelopes are available on the visitors’ table in the back of the church and in church office. Donations for the capital campaign can also be made using your regular offering envelopes or yellow pew envelopes and listing “capital campaign” on the designation/memo line. You can also give electronically using the Simply Giving link on Redeemer’s website and choosing the “capital campaign” option. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen or Kristen in the church office.

Whether you have pledged or not, you are invited to use the enclosed envelope to give an initial celebration offering representing your active commitment to expand God’s work here at Redeemer.





Financial Pledges, Celebration, and Follow Up

“...The most important thing about this campaign is expanding our mission trips...”

Shauna Bur, youth member

“...I am so thankful that God has always taken care of my every need.”

Kristen Cruz, Redeemer graduate 1993

“...The Redeemer family has given me the opportunity to plant the seeds of faith in my life...”

Russ Reaver, Executive Director

Our Advanced Pledge Event was held on Friday, February 22, in Albracht Hall. Russ Reaver and Pastor Rossow spoke, and musical entertainment was provided by the Savage family (former members of Redeemer) on piano, guitar, violin, and cello. The members who attended this event pledged over \$180,000. We thank everyone who attended and helped kick start the *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* campaign with the initial inspiring financial pledges.

On March 10, Pledge Sunday, we started off with one united worship service. Pastor Milan Weerts, our guest preacher, reminded us that God promises to provide for all our needs. Peter Engle and family shared how important Redeemer Lutheran Church and School has been in their lives. It was thrilling to see so many people come forward to make their three-year commitments to the campaign.

After worship we gathered in the Christian Fellowship Center for a delicious meal prepared by Mark Andersen and family. Magician Mike Duseberg enthralled guests with his magical tricks; people are still asking how he tricked us “right in front of our eyes.” Children enjoyed activities and games led by Karyn McChrystal and Amy Zuloaga. Guests satisfied their desires for sweets at the bake sale and were able to order cookies from Sunday School students. Fudge, cakes, cookies, bread, and brownies were in abundance! The Silent Auction, free-will donations, and bake sale profits raised enough money to cover the cost of the event. It was wonderful to see members from every walk of life at Redeemer fellowship together.

With this successful event behind us, we can now look forward to our Celebration Event on Sunday April 14. On this Sunday, come to church to hear our pledge total and give thanks to God for all His blessings. There will be a special opportunity to give a gift to the campaign. The official three-year period of giving to the campaign begins on May 1, 2013, and ends in April 30, 2016. But giving can begin at any time. Campaign giving envelopes are available in the church and in the church office.

That leads us into our three-year follow up process. This important component of the campaign is being coordinated by Karen McCarthy and her follow-up team. We are currently working on a “thermometer” type display that will keep us visually aware of our progress. This will be displayed in the church narthex. This team will also make sure we all stay informed and on track through communications and events over the next three years. They will also personally invite all new members to become part of the *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* capital campaign.

Home Gatherings Bring Members Together



The Home Gathering component of the *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* campaign was designed to get members together to share their thoughts and dreams for the congregation. We thank all those who took the time to attend a Home Gathering and hope that you enjoyed the time you spent there. Many people especially enjoyed the campaign video which captured the thoughts of our members while also explaining what the campaign hopes to accomplish.

If you were unable to attend a Home Gathering, you should have received the printed materials from the meeting in the mail. If you have not yet seen the campaign video, please contact the church office to get a copy so you can see it.

We would especially like to thank Steve McCarthy, Kristen Cruz, Dawn Bomer, and Pastor Brian for heading up the Home and School Gathering Teams.

Special thanks go to our hosts and to those who led the meetings: Walt & Sarah Ahles, Pastor Dave & Jill Albers, Mark Andersen, Ron & Barb Andersen, Shanda Azzi, Lori & Kathy Barger, Steve & Jean Blank, Brent & Dawn Bomer, Kevin & Debbie

Braley, David & Ann Brown, Mike & Erica Cilurso, Eric & Kristen Cruz, Bill & Debbie Fowler, Roy & Patty Garceau, Pastor Brian Gauthier, Edith Hanke, Walt & Jan Hanssen, Sally Hellyer, Pastor Norm & Cindy Heintz, Joe & Dee Hudson, Jack Gebhardt, Robby & Amy Henrichs, Brad Jeske, Dick & Laurie Lineberger., Steve & Karen McCarthy, Willis & Ann Marie Milner, Andy & Melissa Raphael, Russ Reaver, Barbara Salem, Jerry & Marlene Schaumburg, Craig & Mary Schuett, John & Jen Snyder, Del & Marlene Tieg, Hans & Jennine VanDerlip, Dan & Nancy Woron, Manhal & Liliane Yazji, and Steve & Linda Young.

We also want to thank Pastor Brian, Jack Gebhardt, Dave Shinnebarger, and Rob Whitlach for the great job they did in the creation of the campaign video and the Ram Tales videos. They were a valuable part of our Home Gathering and school Bridge Party experiences.

Our Teachers and School Families Are Involved!

The Athletic Boosters purchased two vinyl banners that sport the campaign logo and donated part of the proceeds from their 2012 Christmas tree sales. They hope to donate some profits from the sale again in 2013.

Students can buck tradition and the dress code by wearing crazy socks on Fridays if they pay \$1. All funds from this "fun-raiser" will be donated to the campaign.

Each student received a candy-filled M&M container which says EAT, FILL, RETURN and REPEAT. The students are filling the containers with coins and are bringing them back to school in support of the campaign.



One Final Thank You to our Volunteers

We first thank God for the wonderful success of the *Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together* campaign. He has blessed us with faithful pastors and lay leaders in the past and continues to raise up men and women to serve His church at Redeemer.

We remember and thank the Voters Assembly for approving the Capital Campaign in November, 2012.

We then thank Russ Reaver, Jack Gebhardt, and Steve and Karen McCarthy for serving as co-directors for our campaign.

We also thank the Team Leaders for their dedication to our campaign.

Additionally, we extend our thanks to all of the Team members and other volunteers who brought the campaign to life during these past several weeks. Each little bit or large chunk of time and effort was so very much appreciated, and we offer you our sincere thanks.

We will be having many *Crossing the Bridge to*

the Future...Together events in the next three years. We hope you will all take part in continuing the enthusiasm that has been so much a part of this campaign.



Case Statement

Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together

Our members, school families, and visitors cross many bridges to come to Redeemer, whether year round or for a season. Bridges take us places. Bridges allow us to move past or over challenging terrain. Over time, our bridges also need care and maintenance.

Redeemer Lutheran Church and School is facing some challenging terrain to cross. Christ and His cross are able to bridge any terrain no matter how rough the waves or how much the tide surges.

God chooses each of us to be stewards of His resources at Redeemer. We have some mission-related capital improvements to address, a debt-repayment bridge to cross that will free up future offerings, and a wealth of mission opportunities to span. All these will help us increase support for our mission of “reaching out into the community to be the best for the community.”

Before we cross this stewardship bridge, God is challenging us and supporting us in greater commitment to His Word and Sacraments. With this increased faith, let’s cross this bridge to the future...together.