

# CROSSING THE BRIDGE

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, STUART, FL

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOU TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

**Sunday, January 20**  
Attend Kick-Off Sunday

**Monday, January 21**  
Start using 90 Days of Prayer

**Sunday, February 3**  
Wilderness First Steps Weekend  
Begin Wilderness Journey

**Tuesday, February 12**  
Call my RSVP to Home Gathering Host

**Saturday, February 16, & Sunday, February 17**  
Participate in Prayer Vigil and Spiritual Commitment Events

**Wednesday, February 20 — Sunday, March 3**  
Attend a Home Gathering RSVP to Pledge Event

**Sunday, March 10**  
Attend Pledge Event  
Return Pledge Card

**Sunday, April 14**  
Attend Celebration Event

### Coming Soon!

A link on the Redeemer Church & School website home page that will contain information about the campaign!

[www.redeemerstuart.com](http://www.redeemerstuart.com)

## Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together

The members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and School have spent the last several months giving input and considering how we can best use God's resources as we move into the future. Thanks to those who participated in this information-gathering process, we found that our members are fairly united in their thoughts. Our priorities were identified and, in November, the voters approved a capital campaign in order to raise funds for three purposes:

- Pay down our mortgage in order to free up monies for other expenses and mission programs
- Make needed repairs to our facility
- Fund missions and other outreach opportunities

Preliminary work had already been done on fundraising options, and so we were prepared to call upon Wittenberg Church Consultants to begin leading us in our capital campaign.



We hit the ground running in early December in order to have the entire campaign in front of the congregation while our seasonal members were among us. Recruitment began with our four dedicated and capable Co-Directors, Russ Reaver, Jack Gebhardt, and Steve and Karen McCarthy. Leaders for

the various campaign teams followed and we held our first training meeting on December 7 & 8. The first order of business for the team leaders was to identify the Case Statement for the campaign.

The Case Statement is the succinct, scriptural and inspiring statement of what the campaign intends to accomplish. The Case Statement for our capital campaign is printed below. With our purpose already set for us by our members, we simply needed to give it some detail, fill it with inspiration and make sure it was grounded and centered on Christ.

*Please take a moment to read and digest the case statement. We'll be returning to it again and again in the weeks ahead.*

## 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.

## Campaign Has Two Main Phases: Spiritual & Stewardship

For over 50 years Redeemer has been reaching out in faith to bring God's Word to our members, our school families and those in the community. We have come together as a congregation to accomplish great things for God's kingdom. When we set our minds to a project, our members respond with amazing energy and generosity. We pray that our "CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER" campaign will also bring us together as we raise funds to accomplish our shared goals.

That is why our "CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER" campaign will have two distinct phases: spiritual and stewardship.

During the first few weeks of the campaign, we will focus on our life as Christians and what it means to

be a child of God and a member of this church. We call this time the "Wilderness" because we ask each member to spend time in prayer and contemplation.

You will receive a booklet describing Spiritual Exercises that will help you to strengthen your faith and a "Spiritual Pledge Sheet" to complete and turn in on Spiritual Pledge Sunday, February 17.

It will only be after we have all given thought and commitment to our spiritual lives that we will begin to speak and learn more about our personal stewardship and the financial needs of this campaign.

So please take two journeys with your fellow members, spiritual and stewardship, in the next three months.

*"May God bless our two-phase campaign!"*

## We Will All Be Praying Together!

Included with this newsletter is a booklet called "90 Days of Prayer." The booklet contains a very short prayer for each day of the "CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER" campaign. It also provides a few reminders of important events throughout the campaign. "Day 1" is Monday, January 21.

For now, please take a moment to determine where you might keep the booklet so that it is most handy for you during the 90 days of the "CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER" campaign. If you think that an extra copy might make your prayer life easier, contact the church office.

Beginning on Monday, January 21, we are asking each of our members to take a minute each day to add the daily petition to their individual or family prayer time. Just think how inspiring it will be to know that you are praying the same prayer as your fellow members each day!



## Strangers No More; I Call You Friends

When my children were young, I used to look for ways to explain to them who was a stranger and who was a friend. I finally settled on the advice that we could be sure someone was a friend if we had visited them in their home or shared food with them.

That's why I think home meetings among church members are so important. Over the years I have taken part in many church activities where we opened our home or where we visited the home of another member for a meeting or social function.

To this day, I feel I know those people better than others here at church. They are my church friends!

Beginning on Wednesday, February 20, you can make new church friends by participating in one of the "CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER" Home Gathering meetings. Host a gathering or attend a gathering. You will learn about the campaign, and you will have a good time!

*Donna Linnemeyer  
Wittenberg Church Consultants*

*"Home Gathering meetings build bonds among members."*

## What Can I Expect at the Home Gathering Meeting?



Well, for one, you will NOT be asked to make a financial commitment at the Home Gathering meeting.

What you can expect is an hour or so in relaxed fellowship with a group of members from your congregation. There will be light refreshments, time for chit-chat, your first look at the “CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER” video, a review of the campaign brochure and a short Bible study. Nobody will be “put on the spot” about anything.

This is a time for all members of Redeemer Lutheran Church & School to share their thoughts and dreams for their congregation, to build each other up as fellow members of this church and school and to just get to know each other a little better.

A great group of volunteers have offered to serve as Home Gathering hosts, and this same group will be contacting you on a few occasions to make sure you are planning to attend all of the campaign events. Please give them a few minutes of your time when they call to make sure you are fully plugged into the campaign events.

## Campaign Guided by Wittenberg Church Consultants

The members of Redeemer are being guided in the “CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER” stewardship campaign by Wittenberg Church Consultants out of Naperville, Illinois.

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. 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 18 years and has a degree in Business Administration.

Pastor Rossow and Donna Linnemeyer have conducted and designed stewardship programs for their own congregation and are now sharing their experience with other churches. They bring the unique perspective of “having sat where you are 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 Redeemer to examine where they stand in relation to the cross of Christ. Once that happens, everything else falls into place.”

## “Quiet on the Set . . . Action!”

Watch for a brief burst of video cameras around Redeemer as our “CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE...TOGETHER” campaign kicks off.

A short video is planned as part of the campaign to give us some background, inspire us and tell us about the purpose and goals of the campaign.

Redeemer’s own Jack Gebhardt is heading up a team of volunteers to film, edit and make copies of the final product.

Don’t be shy about participating if asked! The video will debut at the Home Gatherings.



## Campaign Committee Recruitment Continues

Below are the names of the teams and leaders that make up our stewardship campaign. Our goal is to get hundreds of members involved. ***Won't you join us?***

**Campaign Co-Chairs:** Jack Gebhardt, Russ Reaver, Steve and Karen McCarthy

**Campaign Coordinator:** Kristen Cruz

**Word & Sacrament Team:** Pastor Dave, Pastor Brian, Joe Lamoureux, Edith Hanke, Dan Woron, Walt Ahles, Stan Allen, Larry Black, Bill Hamann, Brad Jeske, Jerry Schaumburg, Steve Young.

**Communications Team:** Jim Essig, Dave Shinnebarger, Herb Hanke, Bill Erdman, Heather Cowles, Vivian Throgmorton, Robby Henrichs, Leslie Kingsley, Jenny Norman

**Advanced Pledges Team:** Russ Reaver, Gary and Julie Oldehoff, Bill and Debbie Fowler

**Children & Youth Team:** Amy Henrichs, Melissa Raphael, Vicki Holihan, Sandi Frazier, Reanna Frazier, Pastor Brian and Amanda Gauthier, Nick Utech

**Information Technology Team:** Jack Gebhardt, Dave Shinnebarger, Donna Hascup, Darrell Evans

**Prayer Team:** Joy Beach, Dorothy Costley, Jim Boy, Cathleen Kaltenhauser

**Mailing Team:** Gary and Barbara Gendron, Al and Jane Bush, June Kuhns, Joan Gebhardt, Debby Reynolds, Christina Concepcion, Carolyn Horchler, Pam MacCormack

**Home Gathering/Member Contact Team:** Steve McCarthy, Susie Murray

**Food & Fellowship Team:** Karen McCarthy, Ginny Moore, Barbara Gendron, Debbie Sea, Andersen family, Hellyer family, Kathy Barger, Karyn McChrystal, Jerome Ruiz, Mike Duseberg

**Commitment Team:** Karen McCarthy

**Follow Up Team:** Karen McCarthy, Barb Salem, Marilyn Boettger, Kathy Fleming



Campaign Co-Directors: Karen & Steve McCarthy, Russ Reaver, Jack Gebhardt



Campaign Team Leaders At Work

## Important Dates in the Campaign

- Jan. 20**      **Campaign Kick-Off Sunday**
- Jan. 21**      **Begin 90 Days of Prayer together**
- Feb. 1**        **Home Gathering Hosts pick up invitation packets**
- Feb. 3**        **Begin Three Sundays of Sermons, Bible Studies and Testimonies on Spiritual Growth**  
All members begin their "Time in the Wilderness" to examine and build up their spiritual life
- Feb. 16**      **Prayer Vigil begins on Saturday and ends on Sunday**
- Feb. 17**      **Spiritual Commitment Sunday**  
*We come together to celebrate the completion of the "Time in the Wilderness" (spiritual examination) phase of the campaign and joyfully bring our spiritual pledges*
- Feb. 20-Mar.3**      Home Gathering meetings in members' homes begin and continue through March 3
- Feb. 24**      **Begin Three Sundays of Sermons, Bible Studies and Testimonies on Stewardship**
- Mar. 10**      **Pledge Event**  
*We come together to celebrate the end of the Stewardship phase of the campaign and joyfully bring our stewardship pledges*
- March 11**      Commitment Team begins to reach out to all members who still need to respond with a pledge of financial or prayer support for the campaign
- April 14**      **Celebration Sunday**  
*The pledge total is announced during worship services, and we offer thanks to God for His abundant blessings to us*