

“CROSSING THE BRIDGE”

Special School Edition

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



MAKE A NOTE OF THESE CAMPAIGN DATES

Sunday, January 20

Kick-Off Sunday

Monday, January 21

First day of our *90 Days of Prayer campaign booklet*

Sunday, February 3

Wilderness First Steps
Weekend
Wilderness Journey Begins

Saturday, February 16 &

Sunday, February 17
Prayer Vigil and Spiritual
Commitment Events

February 22 — March 9

“Bridge Parties” for school
parents take place

Sunday, March 10

Main Pledge Event

Sunday, April 14

Pledge Total
Celebration Event

Log On!

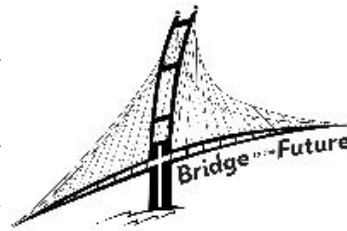
A link on the Redeemer Church & School website home page that will contain information about the campaign!

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 critical budget items and special projects.
- Make needed repairs to our facility.
- Fund missions and other outreach opportunities.



Preliminary work had already been done on fundraising options, 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 campaign training meeting on December 7 and 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 on page two. 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.

School Families a Vital Part of the “Bridge to the Future” Campaign

You are receiving this special capital campaign newsletter so you understand and can participate in the activities planned for this critical growth opportunity for our church and school. You and your children are a vital part of our Redeemer family. That is why a large portion of the funds raised during this campaign will be utilized to improve the school and its facilities. With this in mind, 40% of the funds raised will be used to make upgrades and repairs around our church and school campus. Another 40% will be used to pay down our mortgage, which will allow us to allocate those funds to other critical budget items. The final 20% will be directed to our mission outreach programs.

Please take a few minutes to review the rest of this newsletter. It explains the genesis of this campaign, dates to remember, and the people involved in the many tasks of carrying out such a project. In the coming weeks you will be receiving more information about specific campaign goals, how it directly benefits you and your child, and how you can participate in the financial efforts of this campaign.

The campaign team has assembled a booklet, “90 Days of Prayer Petitions,” that is available to you. It includes daily prayers for you and your family written specifically for our church and school. Along with prayers written by our church members, each class has submitted a prayer that is included in the booklet. If you would like a copy, they are available to pick up in the church and school offices. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please request one from Mrs. Cowles in the school office at hcowles@redeemerstuart.com. Please join this exciting campaign as we “Cross the Bridge to the Future... Together”!

Campaign Has Two Main Phases: Spiritual and Stewardship

For over 50 years Redeemer has been reaching out in faith to bring God’s Word to our members, our school families, those in the community, and beyond. 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.

As with most fundraising campaigns, our members will receive information and inspiration on good, biblical stewardship. Before we set about raising funds, though, we are going to make sure that our members are also strong in their spiritual lives.

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.

Our members will receive a booklet describing Spiritual Exercises that will help to strengthen our 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 our members will be taking two journeys with their fellow members, spiritual and stewardship, in the next three months.

We Will All Be Praying Together!



The members of Redeemer are all receiving 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” stewardship campaign. It also provides a few reminders of important events throughout the campaign. “Day 1” was Monday, January 21.

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!

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.

“May God
bless our
two-phase
campaign!”

The Case Statement is the succinct, scriptural and inspiring statement of what the campaign intends to accomplish.

Party with a Purpose... and You're Invited!



Your children have already been introduced to the “Crossing the Bridge to the Future” campaign and will continue to learn more about it in the coming weeks. As parents you will be receiving a special invitation to get together with other parents from your child(ren)’s class and party with a purpose at our upcoming “Bridge Parties.”

These get-togethers, hosted by other school parents, will be held in late February and early March. This will be a fun opportunity for you to get together with other parents and learn more about the campaign and how it will benefit you and your child. Enjoy some yummy

refreshments, socialize with school friends, and learn more about the goals of the campaign and how you can contribute to those goals.

Be on the lookout for your invitation coming soon. These events promise to be fun nights for fellowship and opportunities to accomplish our shared vision of making our church and school even better!

Campaign Guided by Wittenberg Church Consultants

Redeemer is 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.

We plan to create one main video and several short videos in both the church and school to give us some background, inspire us, and tell us about the purpose and goals of the campaign.

We have volunteers in place and are busily writing our scripts and looking for our “video stars.” We hope to get many of our church members and school children to take part in the videos. We think this will be a truly inspirational part of our campaign.



Meet our Campaign Leaders

Our campaign is being led by four Co-Directors: Steve & Karen McCarthy, Russ Reaver, Jack Gebhardt. Kristen Cruz is the Campaign Coordinator. In addition to these five leaders, we have dozens more Redeemer members signed up to head up and carry out the tasks of eleven more teams as listed below.

Word and Sacrament Team
Communications Team
Advanced Pledges Team
Children and Youth Team
Information Technology Team
Prayer Team
Mailing Team
Home Gathering/Member Contact Team
Food and Fellowship Team
Commitment Team
Follow-Up Team



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

Come Pray with Us at our Prayer Vigil

Our guess is you are available at 2:00 a.m. February 17, or 3:00 a.m., or 4:00 a.m., and so forth. We need your heart, your mind, and your folded hands for prayer at the “Crossing the Bridge to the Future...Together” Prayer Vigil on Saturday, February 16, into the morning of Sunday, February 17. The vigil will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning and continue until worship begins at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. If you have never been to a vigil, do not worry! There will be suggested prayers provided along with some resources from the hymnal. Those who come to the vigil will only be praying silent prayers.

Those attending the vigil will be provided with prayer requests from our church and school families. Those of you who have been to a vigil before know how meaningful it is, and we hope you will join us. As always, we need some devoted people to join us for the late night and early morning hours.

The Prayer Vigil is at the end of the three weeks of spiritual emphasis of the campaign. During this time we will have done much reflection and prepared ourselves for the stewardship portion of the campaign. Some of us will also be choosing to fast during some of the vigil time. These fasts might be total or partial fasting from food, a certain type of food, television, or other electronics. This is done to allow us to better focus on our spiritual lives.

Information and suggestions for fasting are on the prayer card sheets that are available in the church and school offices.

Please bring your completed prayer cards to the church anytime before or during the Prayer Vigil. A box has been placed in the narthex to collect them.

