

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church stands at a significant point between a remarkable past and an even more remarkable future. By God's grace, our church has blessed the lives of thousands of people in Dakota County and around the world over the past 47 years. Seeds of faith have been planted. Disciples have grown in grace and faith. Many have been fed in body, mind and spirit through the fruit of our service. Broken people have been loved back to wholeness. It is a very remarkable past.

But the future God has for us is worth the investment of our lives. While this future includes heartfelt worship and expanded opportunities to equip disciples of all ages to grow in faith and be equipped for ministry in daily life, it focuses primarily on a new vision for our Mission Outpost in the community. A place in which broken people from the South Metro could come to receive what they need. Imagine a mission center so big, so compelling that it drew unchurched volunteers from around the region who hunger to make a difference... people with whom we can rub shoulders and share the Gospel, so that this Outpost becomes the hinge between mission and evangelism. We believe that God is calling us to deepen and widen our tangible expression of Christ's love for "the least of these" among us. This vision will also allow us to partner with the wider community in ways that will help us to plant more seeds for the sake of the Gospel.

This vision is bigger than we are. It's a God-sized vision, which means that it's just the right size. It will require God's intervention as well as the wholehearted investment of all that we are and all that God has entrusted to us. *No Debt! Know Mission!* is a critical pathway into our future and God's vision for us. The goal of this Campaign is to eliminate our debt of \$4.45 million and to build a Capital Replacement Fund so that we can appropriately respond as we need to make significant equipment and property repairs or replacements. The success of this Campaign will transform mortgage dollars into mission and ministry dollars. To be specific, the success of this Campaign will free up over \$200,000 annually in interest alone for mission and ministry. By God's grace we want to be able to burn our mortgage in 2013, which is also our church's 50th anniversary.

Now is the time for each of us to consider how we'll respond to the challenges before us. Here's what I'm asking you to do: First and most importantly, **pray**. Pray alone. Pray as a family. Pray with your small group. I am urging you not to start this process by asking yourself what you think you can afford. Beginning that way makes this about our work and our abilities. Instead dare to ask God, "Lord, how would You have me respond? What do You want to do in and through me?" I believe that God wants to stretch our faith and grow each one of us. That kind of growth happens when we start by praying, not by considering what we think we can do. God knows where we are and where we'll be in the future, so trust God's leading. Second, **obey**. Whatever God calls you to in prayer, obey. Trust that where God guides, God provides, even in uncertain times. Faith is hope in things unseen. Dare to make that commitment.

Thanks so much for your partnership in ministry. I believe that together God can do more in and through us for the sake of the Kingdom than we could ever dare to imagine!

God's peace,



Pastor Jeff Marian
Lead Pastor

Photo by Marv Brown

Invitation to Give

We know God is at work in our lives, helping us grow in our faith and generosity. Prayer is essential. How might you respond to the opportunities that God is placing before you?

Some Suggested Giving Challenges

- 1. Matching Gift** - As a starting point, we ask you to pray and consider a Matching Gift. A Matching Gift means doubling your current giving over the next three years. For example, if you are currently giving \$50 a week (\$2,600 a year) to Prince of Peace's ministry, would you pray and consider giving an additional \$50 a week to *No Debt! Know Mission!* for a three year period?
- 2. Pacesetter Gift** - If financially possible, we hope you will pray and consider making a Pacesetter Gift of \$5,000 to \$25,000, given over the next three years.
- 3. Major Gift** - We invite members who have been financially blessed to pray and consider making a Major Gift of \$50,000 to \$1,000,000, or more.

To meet our Campaign goals, we need everyone to respond as generously as possible.

How Can I Help Make This Campaign a Success?

- By praying for the success of our Campaign and asking God, "What do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will for Prince of Peace?"
- By attending Invitation-to-Prayer Week services, April 17, 18 & 21.
- By returning your commitment card as part of worship during Commitment Week, May 1, 2 & 5.
- By prayerfully responding to God's gift of love with your generous gift.

Prayer for Growth

Most loving God, You have generously given and entrusted many blessings to us at Prince of Peace. As we gather as a community in worship, we grow in the Holy Spirit and share that Spirit with one another. Empower us with Your strength and love as we begin this undertaking. Give us a sense of mission as we work together to more meaningfully become the hands, heart and feet of Jesus Christ to our families, friends, neighbors, and the world. Help us to understand that it is Your work, not ours, that we are doing as together we seek to serve in Your name. Amen.





Photo by Steve Lyon

What is the Purpose of the *No Debt! Know Mission!* Campaign?

The purpose of the *No Debt! Know Mission!* Campaign is to enable Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to participate more fully in God's mission by eliminating our current debt of \$4.45 million over the next three years. By doing so, we will be able to minister more effectively to our members, our community and the world.

As we consider God's future for our congregation, we are asking everyone to pray:

- "Lord, please help me to step out in faith."
- "Lord, help me to commit myself to prayer, service and generosity."
- "Lord, equip me to do all these things through Your grace and with a joyful, thankful heart."

Capital Repair and Replacement Fund

There is an opportunity on the Campaign commitment card to make a gift to our newly established Capital Replacement Fund. We have identified over one-half million dollars in capital assets beyond life expectancy. This will allow us to appropriately respond when an air conditioning unit, a boiler or a computer server dies or the parking lot needs major repairs. We have significant investment in equipment and buildings with continuing need for update. This will be an ongoing fund, and we will report on the expenditures from this fund regularly. Gifts to this fund will be totally separate from debt elimination contributions.

Testimonials

We feel so compelled to ensure that this opportunity exists for our family and generations to come... that God's great work continues in the lives of Minnesotans and the ones we have an opportunity to reach all over the world. That's why we are prayerfully considering our commitment to the Capital Campaign. - *Wendy Horton*

It was through serving, and giving, and through relationships that God's grace stirred and began to change me... This is exactly what this Capital Campaign is all about... The excitement buzzing about this church is due in large part because we're catching a bit of God's dream for us... and I can't wait to see where it leads. - *Kyle Pederson*

Prince of Peace has been the place where my faith and my discipleship have been seeded and have bloomed and I have gone from just knowing "about Jesus" to "knowing Jesus"... in response to the blessing that Prince of Peace has been in our lives, Norm and I are prayerfully considering our response to the Capital Campaign. Somehow our gift must show how much we love this place of worship called Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. - *Marilyn Tubbs*



The Gift of Giving

The mission and ministries of Prince of Peace are dependent on the grace of God and the financial support of God's people. God has richly blessed us, and now we have the opportunity to move forward in faith. Our *No Debt! Know Mission!* Campaign will enable us to strengthen our ministry and outreach both now and for years to come.

Accomplishing our goal means that each of us will need to pray about being willing to give the best we have for a greater purpose. While we all cannot give the same amount, we can all respond to what God is calling us to do. This way everyone can have a part. A biblical understanding of stewardship is "equal generosity, not equal gifts." This support, after all, is a sharing of the many gifts God entrusts to us.

Growing in Generosity

Our *No Debt! Know Mission!* Campaign is an opportunity for personal growth in Christian stewardship. When we each evaluate our financial giving to the church, we have an opportunity to examine our understanding of God's presence in our lives and to respond as an expression of thanksgiving and love for God.

Individuals may use both traditional and creative ways to increase their giving. Some may be able to donate stocks, securities, or real estate and realize considerable tax savings. Still others may increase their cash contributions by reevaluating and adjusting their personal spending. Whichever way is right for you, remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

How Do I Make My Gift?

Your commitment card is enclosed in this Invitation-to-Prayer Packet. During Commitment Week, May 1, 2 & 5, you are asked to bring your pledge to worship. Our pledges, gifts and prayers will be received as joyful and thankful expressions of gratitude to God for the many blessings and gifts we have received. If you are unable to be at worship during Commitment Week, we ask that you mail or bring your pledge to the church prior to May 1.

