



“We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders that God has done.”

– Psalm 78:4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHAT IS A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

A capital campaign is a way for a congregation to raise funds for accomplishing large projects that cost more money than a church could generate through increases in annual giving. During a capital campaign, members are asked to consider making a separate commitment, in addition to their annual giving, which is used to fund the projects. The giving period for a capital campaign is typically three years. All contributions to the campaign are tax deductible in the year that they are given. Early donations are especially helpful.

2. WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN?

We are planning to raise \$450,000 over the next three years to accomplish the following proposed improvements and repairs: provide air-conditioning for the sanctuary; replace the gymnasium oil tank; install solar panels; repair stained glass windows; replace the lower parking lot; replace and update church landscaping; complete parsonage improvements and repairs; renovate the men’s restroom; and install LED lighting. We’re also preparing for future project needs, like roof replacements and exterior painting. The assessment conducted by Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light will help us learn how to improve our building’s energy efficiency and help to clarify the prioritization of the projects.

3. WHEN DO WE ANTICIPATE THE BEGINNING AND COMPLETION OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS?

Ideally, work can begin on the project list this summer, depending on early donations. We are striving to complete all the projects by the celebration of Immanuel’s Centennial in 2028.

4. HOW DOES MY RESPONSE TO THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN AFFECT MY ANNUAL GIVING TO THE CHURCH?

Your giving to this campaign is a totally new commitment. It is in addition to your annual giving to the church, which supports the current ministries and outreach of Immanuel. All the money received through this three-year campaign will be directly applied to the repairs and improvements listed above.

5. WILL A TITHE OF THE FUNDS THAT ARE RAISED BE GIVEN TO DESIGNATED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS?

Your commitment form gives you the opportunity to designate a 10% tithe of your financial commitment to the Centennial Mission Fund. The total amount contributed to this fund will be divided among three charitable organizations. Suggestions for potential charitable organizations were solicited from the congregation and then finalized by our Steering Committee and Church Council. The total amount contributed to this fund will be divided among the following three charitable organizations:

- Worcester RISE (Refugee support)
- ELCA Fund for Leaders
- Camp Calumet

6. WHEN WILL I MAKE MY COMMITMENT?

Everyone will have the opportunity to hand in their confidential commitment form during worship on Commitment Sunday, April 14. (Your commitment form is included in this packet.) If you are not ready to make your response at that time or cannot attend worship on that weekend, you can simply return your confidential commitment form to the office in the envelope provided.

7. HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This is a personal decision, but here are some guidelines for your consideration:

- Be informed by reading all the literature provided for you during this campaign.
- Study the *Guide for Giving* provided on your commitment form.
- Reflect on the blessings given to you by a generous God and give out of joy and gratitude.
- Ask God for direction, pray and meditate, be open to the Spirit.

8. WHAT IF MY FINANCIAL SITUATION CHANGES BEFORE THE END OF THE THREE-YEAR GIVING PERIOD?

At any time during the giving phase, your commitment may be increased or decreased by notifying Dave Carlson, the Financial Secretary for the Centennial Campaign.

9. HOW LONG WILL MY CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT CONTINUE?

The commitment can be spread over three years and is over and above your regular giving to the church. Your commitment form gives you options on how to configure the timing of your gift since not all people will want to give in the same way. Some will give one up-front gift while others will give monthly, quarterly, or yearly.

10. MAY I GIVE STOCKS, IRA TRANSFERS, INSURANCE OR OTHER GIFTS IN ADDITION TO CASH GIFTING?

Absolutely! You are encouraged to think of assets in addition to cash. For many people this is the best (and smartest) way to give. Giving stocks, IRA transfers, property, art, cars, jewelry or other appreciated assets as a charitable donation is beneficial to both you and the church. See the Creative Giving Ideas page for more information on these options. If you think you would benefit from more information on this topic, contact our consultant, Pastor Renee LiaBraaten at 207-751-7371 or revrenee86@gmail.com.