



The Ministry of **ST. JOHN LUTHERAN**

Dear members of The Ministry of St. John Lutheran Community,

Since February 11, we have been in a feasibility study with Fellowship Development as we have been asking ourselves if we are ready to move forward in providing new and renovated space, especially for our grade school and youth ministry. I give thanks to God for over 200 members and families who participated in this study and offered their feedback. Now, I am excited to share the results of the planning study.

As you are aware, our Strategic Ministry Plan identified the replacement of the 1929 St. John school building as our facility's highest priority. Our campaign planning study sought feedback from the community about replacing this building with classrooms, a youth space, a new gymnasium, and renovating other spaces. This project has the potential to elevate our school by transforming it into a safer, more accessible and modern school campus. This comprehensive study showed remarkable support for a campaign and our plan for the project. Many respondents indicated they were willing to give their time, talent and treasure to make a campaign possible. *The details of the study are shared on the opposite side of this document.*

On March 20, the Board of Elders, Coordinating Council, Education Board and lead ministry staff received the findings of the planning study. Following a question-answer session with the consultants and a discussion among our lay leaders and staff, the Coordinating Council unanimously approved to proceed with a capital campaign. We believe there is an extraordinary opportunity to make a lasting impact for quality, Christ-centered Lutheran education in Seward and the surrounding area for the generations to come. We are eager to begin, and the preparation phase of this campaign is already underway. We have much work to do and this we pledge to you: I and the lay leaders will keep you informed as the campaign progresses. We hope to publicly launch the campaign early this summer.

Once again, thank you for participating in this critical study for The Ministry of St. John Lutheran. Your input has been extremely beneficial and will help to ensure the success of our campaign.

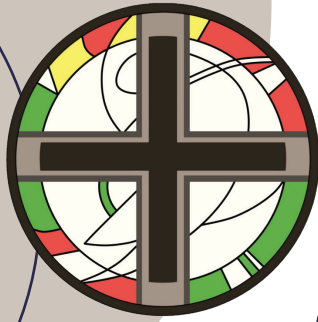
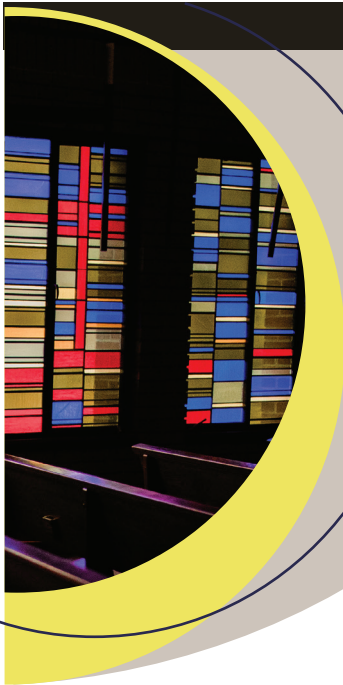
By God's grace and His guidance, I trust that He bless this ministry and work in abundant ways.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bruick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Scott D. Bruick
Pastoral Leader



The Ministry of ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Planning Study Final Report



PARTICIPATION

102 Personal Interviews

106 Mail, Online and After-Service Surveys



RATING OF GOALS

Replace the 1929 School Building.....8.08

This score was calculated by gathering the responses from the planning study and assigning a value of 10 points for a high priority, 5 points for a moderate priority and 0 points for a low priority. The cumulative value was then divided by the number of responses received.

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

- Numerous respondents shared how blessed they feel to have Pastor Bruick and the entire pastoral staff at The Ministry of St. John Lutheran. Their hard work and spiritual guidance are appreciated.
- Other common praises among study participants were for the music during worship services and the strong academic rigor and the focus on faith provided by the school faculty and staff.
- The majority of study participants indicated they understand that the state of the 1929 building is the reason for this construction project. It's time to replace this portion of the school, they say.



- The overall cost for the project is a concern, according to some study participants. Will the congregation be able to raise the funds needed for the project, they ask? Could this portion of the school be refurbished rather than replaced, they ask? Part of what is causing their concern, they say, is due to economic uncertainty at this time.
- Study participants stated their appreciation for the deliberate process in getting to this point. They are grateful for the opportunity to provide input and the ongoing focus on open communication.
- The previous campaign at The Ministry of St. John Lutheran was a success – and participants believe the congregation will respond positively when provided an opportunity to support their congregation's ministries.

KEY STATISTICAL FINDINGS



91% of participants are in favor of a capital campaign, **including 96% of those interviewed.**



89% of participants will give financially to a campaign, **including 96% of those interviewed.**



36 participants indicated they will serve on the campaign team and assist with personal gifts.



45 participants indicated they have included The Ministry of St. John Lutheran in their estate plans, and 28 others would like to receive planned giving information.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of the planning study, Fellowship Development recommends that The Ministry of St. John Lutheran moves forward in the preparation phase of a 26-week campaign beginning March 24, 2025.