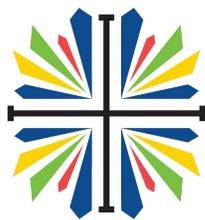


Let's Do It!



**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

OUR VISION ■ OUR FUTURE ■ GOD'S GLORY

Issue #5 - Sept. 2018

What's Inside:

The School's Role in the Campaign



Planned Giving



Property Sale



Church & School in a Garden



**ASCENSION
LUTHERAN**

CHURCH • SCHOOL • FOUNDATION



www.ALCTO.org/MissionPossible

Capital Campaign News from Ascension Lutheran Church, School, & Foundation

Awesome Progress to Report!

I hope you and your families are enjoying a blessed summer and have been able to check out the progress being made on the sanctuary renovation. As of this report, everything is on track to resume worship services on **Sunday, September 16th**. There will only be one service that weekend (10:00 Sunday) as we gather to dedicate this accomplishment.



As mentioned in recent church newsletter articles, the planning and leadership team have been working hard to ensure we complete the renovation and reconstruction milestones that were laid out at the beginning of the campaign. The purpose of this special report is to provide details of our efforts as we approach the annual Congregation meeting which will be held on Sunday, **September 30th at 12:00**.



In this report, you'll learn about Ascension Lutheran School's (ALS) involvement in the campaign. Not only has the school developed a plan for raising revenue to support the construction of the Early Childhood Center (ECC), but 32% of those congregation members pledging or offering gifts to the campaign, either have children attending the school or pre-school, have children that attended ALS, or were students here themselves. This is a strong testament to the quality of education provided at ALS!

Our foundation is looking for ways to engage the congregation in the art of creative planned giving. We are fortunate to have Paul Evenson lead this effort. Paul has worked in this area for the past 30 years and is ready to share his knowledge and insight.

As mentioned in an article in the T.O. Acorn newspaper, we have a wonderful opportunity to not only support the local community and protect a heritage oak tree, but to gain capital that will help bridge the campaign's fundraising gap and contribute to the reduction of our long-term debt. A property sale proposal will be presented at the congregational meeting in September, for discussion and approval (see pg. 3 article).

Pastor Chamie will share a wonderful educational concept as we look to transform our campus from a church and school WITH a garden to a church and school IN a garden.

Like the budget associated with the sanctuary renovation, costs for construction of the ECC will likely increase from our initial estimates as specific details come into focus. Fortunately, with the school's proforma and the potential for the sale of property, as mentioned above, we feel that this will minimally impact the completion of the two priority projects – the sanctuary renovation and the expansion of the ECC.

These are exciting times for our Church, School and Foundation. You all should be proud of your generous stewardship as we work to fulfill our vision for "the possible" and our mission to ***create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ.***

Mission Possible Campaign Chair, *Todd Klipp*

Truly One Ascension

“What is the school contributing to our capital campaign?”



Elementary (TK-4)



Infant & Toddler Program



Middle School (5-8)



Preschool Program

Many people have asked this question and rightfully so. We are *One Ascension*, after all. To answer that, I'll first point to an incredibly important group of people: members of Ascension Lutheran Church, who have or have had, children at our school (ALS). This group is among the most generous and supportive people in the entire campaign. More than \$1 million has been pledged by families with ties to the school! Of the more than \$1 million dollars already received, **school families have given \$480,735**. About 1/3 of the pledges and 1/2 of the gifts collected so far, have come from those connected with school.

Beyond this group, we are continuing to make strong efforts to reach out to school families who are not members. Last February, we are grateful that a number of school families attended our *Mission Possible* gatherings. As a result, and though they aren't members of the church, they responded by making pledges to the capital campaign.

We feel that, as we move closer to the building of the preschool, the developing of the garden and the allocation of the new science center, school families who are passionate about these ministries will become excited about joining the campaign.

Pastor

Tim Delkeskamp

A Creative Look at Planned Giving

Many people don't know what a planned gift does and how it can significantly support the ministry of their church. We'd like to change that.

A planned gift is one that sits in a different "bucket" from the giving we do throughout the year and can be used to support our *Mission Possible* campaign as well. People put planned gifts in their will or estate plan as a way to ensure the life of the Ascension Lutheran, the church and school they love so much, will continue to grow and serve long after they're gone.

If you would like to learn about the many ways to make a planned gift today, the Ascension Lutheran Church Foundation would like to be of assistance. We invite you to contact Paul Evenson, one of our new members on the ALC Foundation. Paul has worked in charitable planned giving for the past 30 years and is currently working part-time at California Lutheran University. He can be reached by phone at 925-324-4476 or by email at evenson@callutheran.edu.



God's Church Rebuilt



1600 E. Hillcrest Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



A Church & School *In* a Garden



By being a church and school *in* a garden (and not just *with* a garden), Ascension's entire campus can bear witness to the stewardship of creation. We can accomplish that by not just having just a single plot of land called a garden, but our whole campus will feel like a garden that happens to have buildings in it.

As people created by God to "live in a garden", our dream is to also stay true to our Lutheran heritage - where Martin Luther and his wife, Katarina, would feed, nourish, and fellowship with people in and through their land. By being a church and school in a garden, our *Nature Explore*-certified preschool, day school, and church can be certified as a "Sacred Grounds" site through the *National Wildlife Federation*.

With a growing desire among people to live sustainable and healthy lives, our garden can be a place to connect with a wider array of people in our city, including the unchurched and de-churched. Not only will people be able to learn about growing and cultivating the land, but we will be able to have beautiful space for Bible studies and outdoor worship. We will be a church and a school in a garden for all ages and people. And our school and our children and youth ministries will be able to push back against a "screen-saturated" culture and inspire a love and appreciation amongst young people for nature - a GREEN-saturated culture.

8th Grade Home Room & Religion Teacher
Rev. Chamie Delkeskamp



Mission Possible—the Journey Continues

Ascension Church and School members have been asking some Mission Possible-related questions lately, like:

- How much money are we trying to raise with our capital campaign?
- Has the goal amount changed?
- Will it change as the estimated costs of the building and renovations are reassessed?

Answer: Our goal remains the same. We are still targeting \$4.3 million dollars as our “Celebration Goal” for the **Mission Possible** capital campaign. And, when we get there, the dreams we’ve had for phase two of our master plan will be funded.

If you recall, when we entered into our stewardship campaign, we presented the three phases of our master plan. The first two, we believed, could be accomplished if we hit our Celebration Goal. To date, we have collected commitments of just under \$3.2 million dollars, with our target being an additional \$1.1 million dollars more. We can do this!

As project costs continue to evolve, we will keep you abreast of these changes. In the meantime, here is a brief history of the expenses involved in these first two phases:

- After refining the original estimate, our master plan implementation team believes that the total cost of building and renovation will be just over \$6 million. This has changed since the original 2010 estimate. Back then, the Early Childhood Center (ECC) was originally planned for the area where the two modular units currently sit with a price tag of \$2.8 million dollars for a 10,800 sq. ft. building (not including furniture, fixtures, & equipment (FF&E). This bid was done four years ago and building costs have gone up at least 15% since that quote.
- The new layout for the ECC, as defined in its new location, has a building that is now 13,500 sq. ft. and over 2,000 sq. ft. of covered structure and walkways. This was done as a result of working with the ECC Director and getting a better feel for her program needs. This 25% growth is estimated to increase costs by approximately \$700K. The good news about this is, having done the work of putting together a pro-forma, and using a conservative estimation, we strongly believe the ECC can easily fund a significant portion of this cost itself.
- Another addition to the original cost estimate is our vision of the garden. The garden, as originally defined, was planter boxes with access to water and power, with possibly a storage shed. That concept has been transformed to being a “church and school *in* a garden,” and is now central in the thoughts of the new master plan. We believe that \$300K will be enough to complete this garden vision.

Taking into consideration the possible sale of a small part of our land, and the ECC’s ability to take on a portion of the cost itself, we strongly believe that \$4.3 million dollars is still the target. For this reason, we will continue to reach out to church members who have not taken the opportunity to join and to those new ECC and school parents who are going to get excited about the building and the garden as they see it develop.

The Mission Possible journey continues and we are well on our way!

Let's Do It!