



Zion Lutheran Church

Forward in Faith

Capital Campaign

Zion Lutheran Church *Forward in Faith*

March 2009

Forward in Faith Campaign Team

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Campaign Co-Chairs

Bill Hastings
Advance Commitments

Evelyn Dahlman & Ann Lantz
Banquet

Brad & Sandy Belmondo
Bible Study

Amy Foster
Children & Youth

Jim Newman
Commitment Visits

Jerry & Ruth Ogburn
Enrichments Gatherings

Janet Jacobsen & Pat Mjelde
Hospitality

Dick & Margaret Geffrey
Planned Giving

Bruce Merle
Prayer Vigil

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Promotions

Kris Garner & Karen Waugh
Resources

Marc Rieke
The Enrichment Group
Consultant

The Widow's Offering

By Amy Foster

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins worth only a fraction of a penny.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on."

Mark 12:41-44

The **Forward in Faith** Campaign is about the future of Zion Lutheran Church. It is also a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about giving. Beginning April 19th, the School for Faith Sunday School rotation will be studying The Widow's Offering story from Mark. Each Sunday our youth will approach this story from a different creative angle. They will have the opportunity to re-enact it during Holywood, make posters with the theme "Caring for Gods Gifts" during Creation and more.

The entire congregation can share in our children's Christian education through this story. Take some time to walk through the Education Building and look for posters and other art projects depicting our **Forward in Faith** Campaign. You can also talk with the children of our congregation during this rotation about the widow and their impressions of the story. And keep an eye out for the special ways our youth will be participating in the All-Church Banquet on May 30th.





**Discover
Creative Ways
to Make Gifts
to Zion's
Forward in
Faith Capital
Campaign**



Creative Gift Planning

Many of us are experienced at giving or tithing (giving 10% of our income) to the mission and ministry of Zion Lutheran. Many of us may think about giving in terms of our checkbook or pocketbook. Many of our gifts for both the annual operations of the church and the capital campaign will come from our checkbooks or pocketbooks.

However, the fact is that often gifts for capital campaigns are contributed in additional ways. Let's think outside the conventional box and be creative in our giving. What opportunities are there for making gifts over the next three years?

Appreciated Assets as Gifts

How about contributing appreciated assets: property, stocks, mutual funds, or other investments? You may have appreciated property (a vacation cabin or lot, a duplex, a second home, or rental property) that you are afraid to sell because of the capital gains taxes. Have you ever considered contributing such property to our church? These can make excellent gifts to our capital campaign. Your benefits for giving

appreciated assets:

- 1) Receive joyful satisfaction about making a significant gift to the ministry of our church;
- 2) **Use a recognized planning tool** to avoid paying taxes on the gain you have built up over the years; and,
- 3) Realize a charitable gift deduction for the full amount of your gift.

Gifts from an IRA

Those over the age of 70 ½ can make a tax free charitable contribution to the church from your IRA. The contribution must be made directly from your IRA to Zion and it may be applied to your Required Minimum Distribution.

Life Insurance Gifts

Perhaps you hold a life insurance policy with cash value that you no longer need. Gifting this policy to the church by naming Zion Lutheran Church as the beneficiary creates a valuable gift to the church as well as a charitable deduction for you as the donor.

Lifestyle Giving

Another way to generate gifts for our campaign is to consider lifestyle adjustments. Going camping with the family in place of a more

expensive vacation, postponing the purchase of an automobile or remodeling of a home, are all ways to "find money" in order to make a generous gift. We are reminded that our forebears often took second mortgages on their homes in order to support their churches.

Shared Benefit Gifts - Endowment

There are also several ways in which the financial benefits of a gift can be shared between the donor and the church. These include charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and life estate agreements. It is recommended that you contact your financial advisor if you are considering a gift of this nature.

Help with your Gift Planning

Zion has people who are willing to assist you with your gift planning. For assistance or more information, please contact Dick and Margaret Geffrey
Ph: 253-631-5917
Email: mgeffrey@comcast.net



PRAYER VIGIL FOCUSES HEARTS AND MINDS ON CHRIST

By Bruce Merle

Starting at noon on Good Friday, April 10, through noon on Saturday, April 11, Zion Lutheran will hold a 24-Hour Prayer Vigil at the church. Our Good Friday evening service will occur as part of the Vigil beginning at 7:00 PM.

The Prayer Vigil is a very important part of our **Forward in Faith** campaign, and a great opportunity to be in communication with our Lord! As part of our Holy Week observance, and in light of this important time in the life of our church, we're asking each member of our church family to pray with us for one hour at church during the 24-hour time period. If you've never participated in a prayer vigil, this time of silent prayer will be an opportunity for you to experience a very reflective, peaceful time of prayer in the sanctuary. Fellow members of Zion will be joining you around the clock as we focus on lifting our prayers up to God.

In preparation for the Prayer Vigil, members are encouraged to submit prayer requests for needs,

concerns and thanksgivings using the **Forward in Faith** prayer request cards. Completed request cards can be placed in the offering plates on Sunday, or turned into the church office.

During the Prayer Vigil you will have the opportunity to pray for these requests. Scripture and other resources for prayer and devotion will also be available. Bring your own Bible or any additional prayer material that you may want to use. Our Lord has asked that we bring everything to Him in prayer. This is your hour to spend with the Lord. You will find that it passes too quickly! Please join with the body of Christ at Zion as we gather during this 24-hour Prayer Vigil. Sign up for a one-hour time slot in the church narthex.

"As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice."
Psalm 55:17



Advance Commitments

By Bill Hastings

As Zion continues its journey to move **Forward in Faith**, we are in the midst of a significant campaign to expand our narthex, remodel our kitchen and provide professional office space for our amazing staff.

Each one of us is being asked to commit gifts proportionate to our ability in order to accomplish ambitious goals. Not everyone is expected to contribute an equal amount. We only ask that people make equal sacrifices, while offering unequal gifts.

David, a leader in the Old Testament, gives us an example of the impact of Advance Commitments in First Chronicles. David was making an early commitment to building the great temple in Jerusalem.

"So I have provided silver for the things of silver, and bronze for the things of bronze... Then, the heads of the fathers' houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes... Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly."

The purpose of Advance Commitments is to establish leadership momentum for our **Forward in Faith** Campaign. We invite those who are willing to make early, sacrificial commitments to participate, as did the leaders of the building project in Israel.

Some are already modeling such commitments by serving on our **Forward in Faith** Campaign Team. This group is providing us with leadership to make sure that everyone in the community of Zion Lutheran Church is inspired, informed and involved.

Over the next weeks we will be presenting campaign information in a variety of ways. We want each member of Zion who is able to generously participate in this important appeal.

There will be an Advance Commitment Gathering on Saturday, May 16th at 3:00 PM as Druids Glen in Covington. If anyone wishes to participate in the Advance Commitment effort, please contact Bill Hastings at (253) 631-4852. We would like to include you in this generous service.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Zion Lutheran Church *Forward in Faith*

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Forward in Faith Campaign Web Site:
www.zionkent.org/ForwardinFaith/ForwardinFaith.htm

Upcoming *Forward in Faith* Events

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Friday, April 10th, noon —
Saturday, April 11th, noon

Advance Commitments Event

Saturday, May 16th

All-Church Banquet & Children's Party

Saturday, May 30th

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, May 31st

