

*Moving
Forward
in Faith*



**Immanuel Lutheran
Church & School**

New Church Building Fund Appeal



***“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen
you to build a temple as a sanctuary.
Be strong and do the work.”***

1 Chronicles 28:10

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”...“and on this rock I will build my church.”

There are so many blessings and faith stories to celebrate as members of Immanuel. Just stop and let them sink in for a minute! We are a congregation that now numbers more than 1,300 souls. We are blessed with a Christian grade school that currently serves 155 students. As a family of believers we have three opportunities for worship every week. We have a dedicated staff of called workers who share God's Word and help our congregation carry out our mission! To say God's grace is amazing and his blessings are overwhelming is an understatement.

Now for just a minute imagine the founding members of Immanuel visiting our church and school family for the first time after they started our congregation in 1881 and subsequently built our present church building in 1909. Just stop and let that sink in for a minute...we worship in that very building to this day. Do you think our forefathers could have ever imagined what their stepping out in faith over 135 years ago would lead to? To say God's grace is amazing and his blessings are overwhelming is an understatement.

For the past 135 years the members of Immanuel met the challenges and opportunities God placed before them. They did so because their faith was built on the rock - Jesus Christ. Here we are in 2016, faced with our own challenges and opportunities. There is an ever growing need for our ministries and at the same time our church building is reaching a point where ongoing maintenance is projected to become very costly.

Like our forefathers, we recognize that the challenges sent by God are really opportunities to live out our faith. That is why this brochure is in your hands. After years of planning our next opportunity is in front of us. This opportunity will provide new facilities to meet our current ministry needs and help us focus on Immanuel's future. Seizing this opportunity will allow us to do for future generations what past generations have done for us as we carry out our mission to Share the love of Jesus; Grow in faith; and Serve community.

For 135 years Immanuel has been built on the rock solid truth that “Jesus is the Christ...the Son of God”. Yes, we know this project is ambitious - and rightly so because Jesus is worthy of our best! With a great appreciation for our past, gratefulness for the present, and confidence in the future, we embrace this opportunity!

God has placed us right here, right now for this exact moment and opportunity. We “move toward” what God has planned for us! Immanuel has been doing this for 135 years! I pray God will lead each of us to see and to embrace this opportunity as you are invited to play an important role in making this vision for our congregation into a blessed reality.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Grohs

Pastor John Grohs



OUR CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

These are exciting times for our congregation. Our mission is to Share the love of Jesus; Grow in faith; and Serve the community. Our **Moving Forward In Faith** appeal is a congregation-wide effort to raise funds needed to build our worship center to meet the current and future needs of our congregation.

Our new worship center will allow us to:

- **Grow the congregation:** Our new Church Center will be a wonderful asset to our community, and will draw in new members. The limitations, condition, and lack of accessibility of our present church makes it difficult to attract new members.
- **Improve worship:** With potential seating for nearly 300, expandable to 400, our new church space will provide a beautiful and inspiring environment for worship. New video and audio technology capabilities will further enhance our worship.
- **Enhance Fellowship:** We experience Christ in our lives in relationship with one another. Our new gathering space will provide a space to connect with one another after worship services, or at weddings, funeral visitations, and other church functions.
- **Expand participation in our current ministries:** A new fellowship hall on one level will provide easy-to-get-to spaces to participate in fellowship and Parish Education ministries (Sunday School, Adult Bible Studies, and more). The multi-purpose meeting spaces will provide flexibility for both current and future ministries.
- **Be more accessible:** A one level, ground floor building will provide access for people of all ages and abilities. A sheltered entry will make drop off and pickup easier and safer. Those who do not attend church now because of lack of accessibility will find our new worship center inviting and accessible. Included will be ADA compliant restrooms.
- **Be more inviting to our guests:** Our new gathering space will be a wonderful space to greet and meet our guests and potential new members, all in an atmosphere of welcome. Our new meeting spaces can be used to host community events and draw people into our space who typically would not find their way to us.
- **Be more family-friendly:** A cry room and childcare that provides direct sight and sound to the worship center will allow parents and children to feel part of the worship. Our young families will have their children in the same building for Sunday School instead of several blocks away.
- **Avoid costly upkeep on the current church:** While we appreciate our current church building and all the ministries it has been home for, the limitations and challenges of our church building are overwhelming. Challenges include limited space, inaccessibility, dated heating, air conditioning and electrical systems, lack of space to expand, safety issues related to street crossing and parking lot repairs. Significant expenditures to take care of some of these challenges would still leave us facing shortcomings that only a new church center would address. Simply put, our current facilities are limiting us as we strive to carry out our mission.
- **Master plan for a future new school:** By constructing our new worship center, we are staying true to our long-term Master Plan which envisions a new school built on our new property.

Our building plans are really a means to an end. Our ultimate purpose is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want more and more people to hear the good news of salvation. We want more and more people to come to faith in Jesus. We want more and more people to join us in praising and worshiping Jesus Christ. When more people praise Christ in true faith, then Jesus Christ will receive the glory that is due him as the Savior of the world.

OUR CONCEPTUAL BUILDING PLANS

Preliminary conceptual plans for our new church and ministry center have been developed and shared with the congregation. These plans, estimated to cost \$4 million, consist of the following:

- New worship area
- Gathering space for fellowship before and after services
- Multi-purpose Ministry Center with flexible meeting rooms
- Nursery/Cry Room connected to the sanctuary
- Office space
- Drive-through covered drop-off
- Restrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Adequate parking

View of Proposed Church from the Southwest



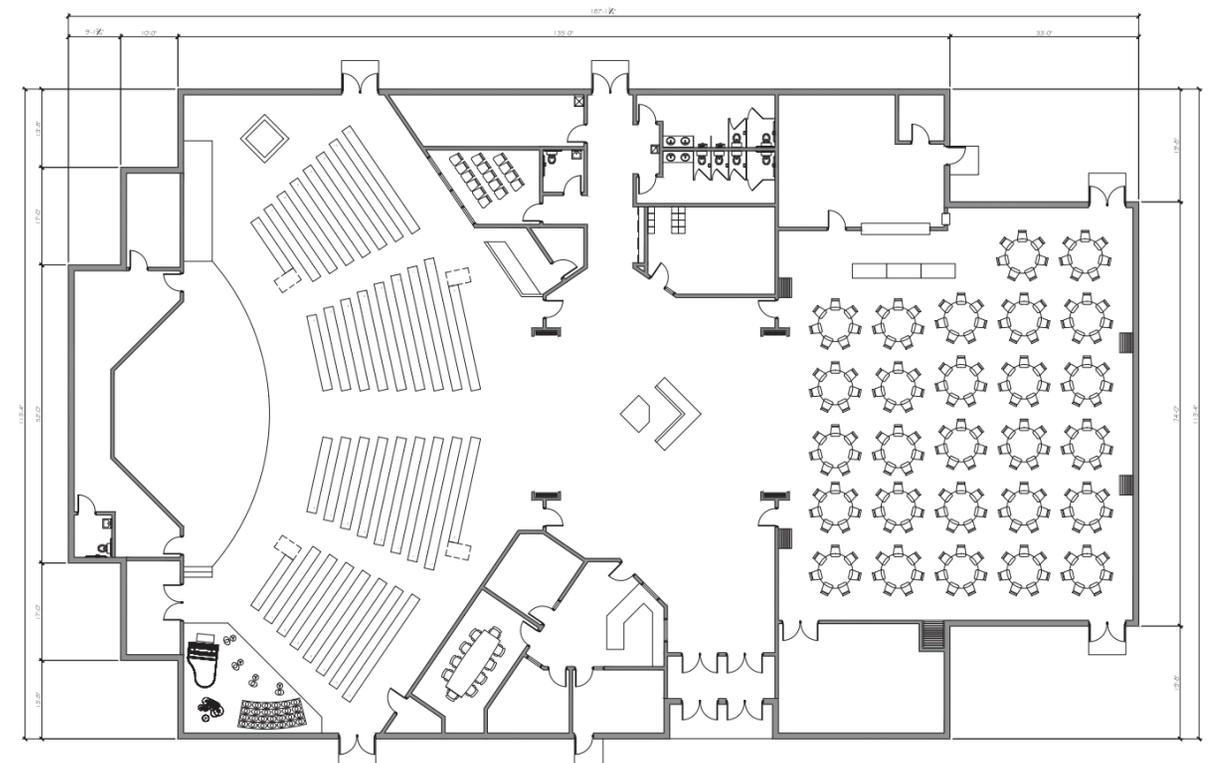
“Ted and I have been blessed to serve and be served by our Immanuel congregation. I am hopeful for our congregation to be sacrificially able to reach a significant financial commitment so that our new building becomes a reality.” - Christine Voelker

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

*New church shown in gold.
Future school is outlined.*



CONCEPTUAL FLOOR PLAN



*"It is with great excitement and hope that we are **Moving Forward In Faith**. Hope for a facility that will not only meet our current needs as a church, but also grow with us and help us have a greater reach into the community at large."
- Sarah Albright*

Conceptual View of the Church from the West



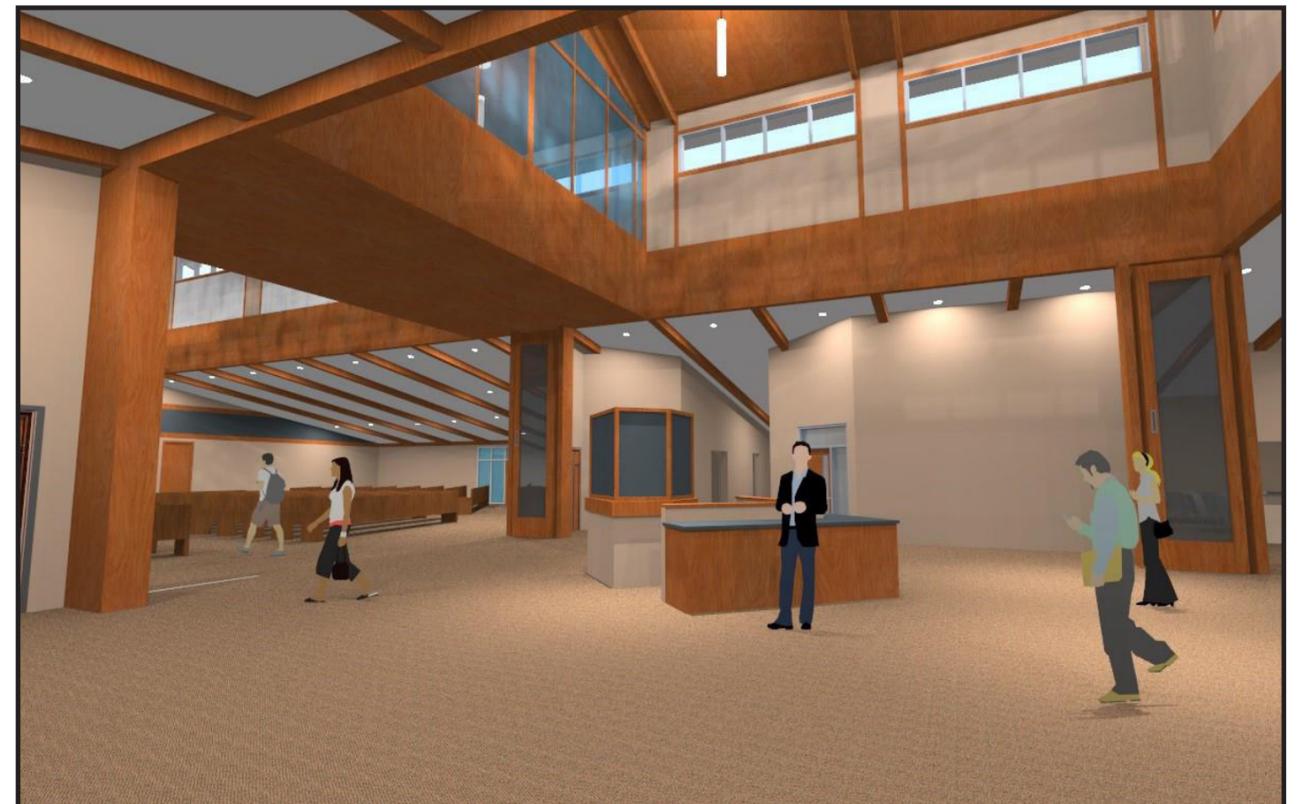
"Every good blessing we have is of God and from God, and we give back that which is His. I want us to further God's kingdom on earth and share the power of his grace and mercy to others, through our church." - Ann Schlice

Conceptual View of the Church from the South



"This is an opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the congregation and community, a memorial to those who have gone before and a blessing to those yet to come." - Daniel Wendlick

Conceptual Views of Church Interior





SHARING TOGETHER, TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"
Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

Like our forefathers, we don't have all the answers, nor can we see the future. But we know where we stand...we stand firmly on the rock solid promises of God's Word. And like our forefathers, God's promises give us the same courage and confidence to address the challenges before us. We recognize that any challenges sent by God are really opportunities to show our trust in him.

Together, through our *Moving Forward In Faith* appeal, we seek to raise \$2 million over the next three years to fund our new church. We are asking all members to pray and consider making a three-year commitment to the Building Fund. These financial commitments would be additional gifts OVER and ABOVE our regular offerings for current church ministries and expenses. This is a challenging goal for our congregation, but a goal that that we pursue with trust in God's promises.



OUR INVITATION TO GIVE

*"For the LORD is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5*

In order to reach our appeal goals, we are asking each of our members to pray and consider one of the following gift options.

Gift Option 1 - Matching Current Giving

We ask you to pray and consider matching your current regular giving. For example, if you are currently giving \$25 a week to help fund our church's ongoing ministries, would you pray and consider giving an additional \$25 a week to our Building Fund over the next three years?

Gift Option 2 - Pacesetter Gift

We ask those who are in a position to give more, to pray and consider a gift of \$5,000 to \$20,000 to our Building Fund over the next three years.

Gift Option 3 - Legacy Gift

If we are to achieve our *Moving Forward In Faith* appeal goal, we will need many of our members to prayerfully consider gifts of \$20,000 to \$200,000 or more to our Building Fund to be given over the next three years.

The following giving table may be helpful in planning your *Moving Forward In Faith* appeal gifts. Here's how a weekly gift can grow in size over a three year period:

My Weekly Gift of:	Amounts to a Monthly Gift of:	Amounts to an Annual Gift of:	Amounts to a 3-Year Gift of:
\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 780.00
10.00	40.00	520.00	1,560.00
15.00	60.00	780.00	2,340.00
20.00	80.00	1,040.00	3,120.00
25.00	100.00	1,300.00	3,900.00
30.00	120.00	1,560.00	4,680.00
40.00	160.00	2,080.00	6,240.00
50.00	200.00	2,600.00	7,800.00
70.00	280.00	3,640.00	10,920.00
100.00	400.00	5,200.00	15,600.00
150.00	600.00	7,800.00	23,400.00

LET US LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

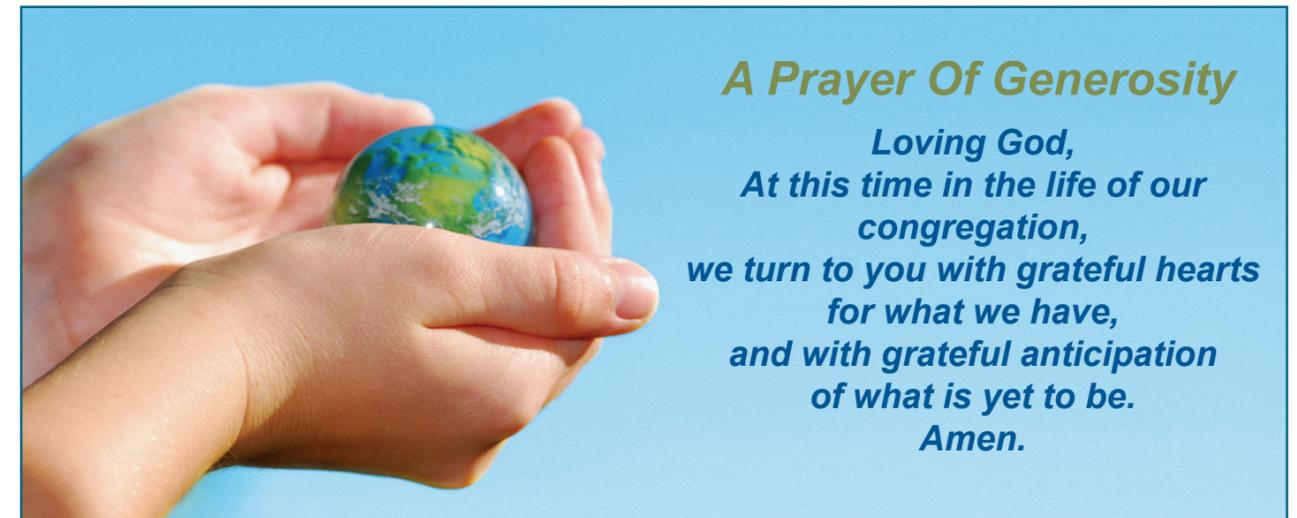
More than anything, together we strive to leave a legacy of faith for the next generation. Our goal is that all members respond the best they can to our *Moving Forward In Faith* appeal. Not everyone has the same financial resources, but every person can make a prayerful, sacrificial gift. Through this appeal, we encourage an equal sense of commitment and sacrifice throughout our congregation, with each person prayerfully determining their own gift. By everyone responding the best they can, we remain confident in the Holy Spirit to bless us with a successful appeal.

"Immanuel Church and School have helped me every day. I truly feel that this appeal is essential and know that we all need to do our part. No matter what size the gift is, everyone and every gift counts." - Ann Rutta



KEEPING OUR MINISTRIES STRONG

Your regular offerings allow us to continue to grow and strengthen our ministries of worship, Christian education, and outreach. Our regular offerings need to continue being our first priority in giving. Gifts to the building fund need to be over and above our regular giving.



A Prayer Of Generosity

*Loving God,
At this time in the life of our
congregation,
we turn to you with grateful hearts
for what we have,
and with grateful anticipation
of what is yet to be.
Amen.*

COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MAY 22

On Commitment Sunday, May 22, you are encouraged to bring your response form to worship where it will be received in a special offering. Prior to Commitment Sunday, through updates in church, mailings and telephone calls, we hope to communicate how vital this appeal is to the future of our congregation. If you cannot be with us on May 22, please bring your response form to worship the following weekend, or return it to the church office as soon as possible. May your response be made with joy and thanksgiving for all God has given you.

OUR APPEAL TEAM

We are thankful for the dedicated members of our church who are giving of their time and talent to make our *Moving Forward In Faith* appeal a success.

Chris Voelker	Ann Rutta
Sarah Albright	Ann Schlice
Dennis Hall	Dan Wendlick
Ron Karnatz	Pastor John Grohs

Everyone who has contributed, called someone, spoken to others, or prayed regarding this appeal has blessed our congregation. There are too many appeal volunteers to list, but know how vital you are to our ministries here at Immanuel.

"I am grateful for each Sunday at church, with friends and church family. I am grateful for a great school where our girls learned about our God, and are now passing this faith onto their children. I support this appeal because it is about our future, as a church and school." - Dennis Hall

APPEAL PRAYER

GOD OUR FATHER,
WITH THANKS AND
PRAISE WE CELEBRATE THE MANY
WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE
BLESSED OUR CONGREGATION.
YOUR SPIRIT HAS FORMED
US INTO A WELCOMING
COMMUNITY BUILT ON A
FOUNDATION OF FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE. WE DESIRE NOTHING
MORE THAN TO DO YOUR WILL,
AND TO SPREAD THE GOOD
NEWS OF YOUR SON, JESUS
CHRIST.

WITH FAITH AND TRUST WE
ASK YOUR BLESSING UPON OUR
MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH
APPEAL. ACCEPT AND BLESS

OUR OFFERINGS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE SO THAT OUR NEW CHURCH
BUILDING PROJECT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED TO THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME.

AMEN.

*We are hopeful that in the coming months
God's plan for Immanuel Lutheran Church will
become evident to the entire
congregation and that we
can move forward together.
- Jon & Cara Lee and Family*

*I am grateful for the opportunity to worship
God and grow in faith. It continues to be a
rock and cornerstone, not only for me, but the
community as well. Immanuel has fulfilled my
needs and it is my willingness to pursue more
of what the church offers.
- Jeff Conradt*

**Moving
Forward
in Faith** 

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
111 11th St. N.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 423-3260
www.immanuelrapids.com