

## **LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER (LIFT)**

### **CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Below are a few of the most frequently asked questions about the LIFT program and the upcoming pledge process. There are more questions and answers to on the Redeemer website at RedeemerRIC.org, click on the LIFT icon and then scroll to “View the LIFT Fact Sheet HERE.”

#### **Why are we expanding?**

Redeemer’s mission statement is: *Reaching people for Jesus, embracing them in a Christ-centered community, and nurturing them in God’s word to be faithful disciples.*

Since the beginning of our Building a Community Based Church (BCBC) initiative in 2011, God has continued to bless Redeemer’s ministry by building and strengthening relationships among our members and our neighbors. Membership and worship attendance continue to rise. Enrollment at our preschool has reached historic levels, yet we turn away families because we cannot accommodate their child. Weddings, funerals and monthly events, like Screen on the Green, push our facility to and beyond capacity. Student ministries, small groups, and Bible studies are growing despite inadequate meeting space. Valuable education spaces are being utilized for storage.

God has truly blessed Redeemer’s BCBC initiative. Today our members and neighbors are coming to Redeemer with specific ministry-related requests that, because of the limitations of our current facility, we are simply unable to meet.

*The purpose of LIFT is to expand our facility to meet the defined needs of our members and our neighbors.*

#### **Why can’t we delay LIFT or do the LIFT project in phases?**

It would be cost prohibitive to delay LIFT or divide the project into phases. As the construction industry continues to recover from the sluggish environment of the past 7 years, the cost of skilled construction workers is rising fast. Interest rates remain at historic lows but are not expected to remain there much longer. If we delay LIFT to some later date, we are almost certain to incur much higher construction and financing costs. It is also impractical to divide the current LIFT plan into phases. Delaying any aspect of the current plan to a future phase means not meeting key pressing ministry needs. Also, the expansion is very interconnected. For example, the expansion of the CDC downstairs creates the space for a larger fellowship hall upstairs, current office space will be moved to the old fellowship hall area and bathrooms will replace some of the office space. Eliminating one, eliminates another, reducing our ministry capabilities without saving much money.

#### **Are there practical ways to reduce the capital required for the current plan?**

When the LIFT team was first assembled at the beginning of 2014, the first task they undertook was to compile a list of all the facility needs that have been identified by Redeemer members and staff. The

team, working with Balzer & Associates, determined that meeting all of these expressed needs would cost more than \$8 million dollars. The team then prioritized among these expressed needs and settled on a shortened list of critical items, capabilities that had to be met for the LIFT initiative to be worth the cost and disruption. The cost estimates for these mission critical needs were still in excess of \$6 million. The team spent much of the past year searching for creative ways to achieve these “must have” capabilities at a lower cost. The current proposed LIFT configuration represents over 18 months of hard work, cutting costs while still achieving Redeemer’s minimum requirements.

**When do we get our pledge cards? When are they turned in?**

The LIFT pledge cards will be mailed November 16 to all Redeemer households. The filled in cards will be received during the Commitment Services on November 22. Prior to receiving these cards, all members are encouraged to use the devotional books handed out after the services on Vision Sunday, October 25.

**When will we know the total dollar value of pledges received?**

We will know the total dollar of the pledges received at the announcement service on December 6. To encourage broad congregational support, the Redeemer leadership has been asked to make their pledges before the congregation receives their pledge cards as an encouragement to the congregation at large.

**What is the time period for which we are pledging and specifically when can the first gifts be given?**

The time frame for this campaign is a 38-month period. Members can actually begin their giving December 6, 2015, and conclude January, 2019. The envelopes for giving to the LIFT campaign will be a distinctively different color from the regular Sunday giving envelopes.

**Can we increase our pledge after the campaign starts?**

Of course. We all go through periods where we are not sure of our giving because of year-to-year changes in our finances. If God places on your heart to give more than you originally pledged, it would be a blessing. However, we should not underestimate the importance of our current pledge. Our prayer is that each member will consider sacrificial giving in order to meet our minimum need of \$1.3 million in order to proceed with the LIFT project.

**Are there advantages to Redeemer’s borrowing costs by members having savings accounts through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)?**

Yes, there is a sizeable benefit to Redeemer when communicant members have a savings account at LCEF (minimum \$25 deposit). The LCEF offers an Interest Rebate Program over a 5-year period. It begins with a .25% reduction in our existing loan rate for 15% of our communicant membership who has an account. These interest rate reductions change to .375% for 25% of our communicant base, and .5% with a 35% communicant base involved.....a sizeable savings over 5 years. More information on how our members can set up LCEF savings accounts will begin in January, 2016.

**What will happen if we do not raise enough money to get our loan for January's groundbreaking?**

We will not be able to sign the contract with the contractor and will not be able to move forward with LIFT at this time.

**Will we be reusing any of the office furniture, kitchen equipment, tables, chairs, etc.?**

Yes, every attempt will be made to utilize existing furniture; however, because of new office configurations, some furniture will need to be replaced. The kitchen will reuse the existing stainless work tables, stove and ice machine. With the expanded kitchen and fellowship space, we will have to add to the new kitchen, and tables and chairs where necessary, but the existing ones will also be used.

**What will Redeemer's ministry look like when LIFT is completed?**

At the heart of "Living In Faith Together" is our need and desire to connect others to Christ while we grow our own faith through the Holy Spirit. Our modern, welcoming facility will support these goals in the following ways:

- "Equipping the saints" by offering more training for lay members.
- Increased space and schedule flexibility for various groups (i.e., bringing Screen on the Green inside during inclement weather, Discipleship, Bible Studies, quilters, Scouts, karate, etc.).
- Expanded student ministry for middle and high school students.
- Community classes and events for the surrounding area.
- Teaching Christ to a greater number of children through our new Child Development Center. (Capacity will increase from 95 today to 160, and ages will expand from 6 weeks to age 13.)