

Building on Our Faith

Newsletter 2 / February 2020



2020 Calvary Lutheran Church
Capital Campaign

Has God ever asked you to take “a leap of faith”, like a “Wow, God, You are asking me to do what” kind of situation? I heard the Spirit’s voice over the years, but for the most part I ignored it if it meant me needing to commit too much of my time to follow Him. Another stumbling block to following was lack of self-confidence. But then an unusual thing happened to me in 2016.

Some of you may know that I used to operate a small business, Strickler Signs. We had 29 employees with annual sales between \$3.8 and \$4.6 million until 2008. In November of 2007, I could tell something was wrong with the economy. There were two designers in our design department always kept very busy with sign design requests from the sales staff. Then in November—BAM—almost no design requests from potential customers. Within two months there were layoffs, an occurrence we had not experienced in 25 years of business. What a shock! The next year was even worse, losses in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. At some point in 2009 something snapped inside: I gave up hope. The economy was not improving. No matter how much we cut staff and costs, we couldn’t turn a profit. I began to suffer from 24/7 stress and anxiety. There was no cure.

We barely survived. Our economic situation began to stabilize in 2014, but the die had been cast: I couldn’t break the anxiety. Then one night in late 2016, I literally got on my knees and the hard driving perfectionist said to God, “That’s it, I’ve had enough. I am now going to be lazy for this first time in my life. You are guiding me. You are telling what to do from now on.” Then my life began to change. It wasn’t a lightning bolt moment, but I could sense something was different. I started to regain hope. I wasn’t as concerned about the future. I felt like I didn’t have to have all the answers. I had given up enough of my rebellious *“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” 1 Chronicles 29:14*

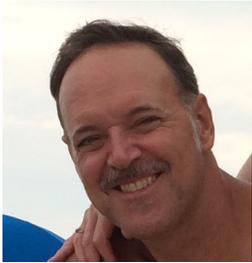
pride that God began to use me in ways He couldn’t have before “my moment”.

As you read this, you might say, “Nice story, Bryan, but what does it have to do with our Building on Our Faith Campaign?” I answer, “Everything.” Because of my spiritual growth, I have begun increasingly to see my life and the world around me through the eyes of the Spirit. Life decisions have begun to be made more and more based on God’s will and not mine. I give back to God more financial resources as my faith in Him grew. I look for His guidance in everything in my life. Am I perfectly there yet? No. I pray God will make me grow in Christ more each passing day. But what a blessing to be able to better understand our Savior’s words about a light burden. The apostle Paul—wow—his joy from suffering for the Gospel; I am relating more and more to him every day. Thanks be to God for His loving us enough to break us and rebuild us in faith!

Calvary is presented with another opportunity to step forward in faith. Our church is unique in today’s world. We believe in the Scriptures and worshiping God. We offer the world the Lord’s timeless, truthful message passed down through His Word. What we do today with our renovation project is how we can take our turn to improve Calvary for the generations that come after us.

Many of your brothers and sisters in Christ are faithfully giving of themselves by serving on the campaign to fund our renovation project. There will be ways for you to participate in this campaign as well. You could volunteer for the campaign. There will be Bible studies to participate in. Inform events to attend. Visitations will happen where we can share our stories of why Calvary holds a special place in our lives. Ultimately, we will all need to prayerfully consider how much of God’s first fruits we will offer back to Him to further His kingdom in

our community. We want you to be an active participant in this campaign, a chance for you to grow spiritually.



Bryan Strickler
Campaign Director

In this Building on Our Faith Campaign, you will be asked to take a step forward in faith. Let's all join together on this exciting endeavor for God!

Visitation Phase of Building on Our Faith

Soon congregational members will visit each other in their homes to talk about the capital campaign. A "visiting team member" will visit with you to share some topics such as: why they came to Calvary, what makes Calvary special to them, what the future of the church looks like to them. This should be the beginning of a mutual sharing of why our church is beloved and how the renovation will further the Kingdom. The amount of the gift does not have to be discussed unless the members being visited wish to. The commitment card is filled in at this time, the monetary amount does not have to be, and the member being visited will understand this is the card they will bring on Commitment Sunday. Visitations will begin February 24 and will conclude March 6.

We are asking for members to open up their homes as a geographical hub meeting. A hub meeting means having 4-8 members gather at your home for a visitation. The Prensners have committed to a meeting at their home on the East Shore. We are looking for people to volunteer to do the same in the following areas: Carlisle, Camp Hill/Mechanicsburg, and Dillsburg. Please contact Jim Blockus to schedule a meeting.

Bible Studies to Build on Our Faith

"Building on Our Faith" is what we are calling our current capital campaign. But if we are going to build on our faith, we must be connected to what can help us do that. We must engage with the Scriptures, where the Holy Spirit comes to us with His gifts, including enlightenment and encouragement.

Our campaign includes Bible studies on the Sunday mornings that lead up to our Commitment Sunday on March 22. These will take place in the Adult Classroom at 9:00am on March 1, March 8, and March 15.

March 1

Preparing to Build the Temple
(1 Chronicles 28:1—29:22a)

March 8

Jesus Teaches about Identity & Stewardship
(Luke 19:1–27)

March 15

A NT Example of Stewardship & Generosity
(Philippians 4:2–20)

Everyone is invited to attend these opportunities to build on your faith, which is more than just part of a capital campaign; it is part of our lives as Christ's disciples.

Important Upcoming Events

Inspire Sunday

February 23

Bible Study Sundays

March 1, March 8, March 15

Commitment Sunday

March 22

Prayer Vigil

March 28

First Gift Sunday

April 5

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you." 1 Chronicles 29:14