What is our Vision?

Recently, a large gathering of members were challenged to dream big and think of what they would like to see at St. Paul's in ten years. Some ideas were ministry benchmarks and school body related, and some were physical and practical. In the end, we can't do them all right away, but we can start to re-energize the body of Christ by working on those necessary upgrades to the campus that benefit younger families and the elderly, and also foster a more inspiring environment and first impression for visitors and potential members.

Among those material items are:

• An **atrium entryway** to the Narthex that includes more bright Fellowship space, a covered drop-off area at the entrance, and new and **safer** handicapped parking and school drop-off areas, demonstrating that everyone counts and each individual's relationship stems from what happens in the sanctuary.

• **Upgraded interior Fellowship area** renovation with more efficient use of space, inviting furniture, better **lighting** and artistic focal features, access from the Prayer Garden, while paying homage to the most-loved historic pieces from our past; **renovated main restrooms** are included. Reorganizing entryways, environments, and Fellowship possibilities underscores the value of relationships we have in Christ to old and new friends.

• An **outdoor chapel/pavilion** with firepit to expand our use of the grounds, connect the church and school ministries internally and **connect** St. Paul's as a whole to the **community** with an attractive and useful space for **ministry** to youth, school, and families.

• Reimbursement to the Endowment for the recent necessary **updating of the HVAC** as responsible stewardship of the building we inherited and hope to bequeath to the next generation in healthy and beautiful condition.

The target goal is $1.5 million which is both feasible and challenging. In the end, we actively and earnestly pray that God uses the campaign to bless the church family at St. Paul's with expanded evangelism and discipleship, increasing the body of Christ in church and school. The physical changes to the campus will mean little without a rededication to the Gospel and changing the hearts of her members.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

1 Reconsider how you use God's gifts of time & talent

There will be old and new ways for you to engage in Christian life with our church family—assembling paperwork or construction, cooking or organizing, babysitting or teaching, artwork or elbow-grease, singing and worshiping. We're asking everyone — kids, families, seniors, singles, empty-nesters —to seek out ways to serve and to rededicate themselves to the priority of a faith-life lived out with all generations at St. Paul's. There will be sign-ups and opportunities popping up as we go!

2 Re-evaluate weekly giving

Take a healthy and honest look at your giving habits— are they deliberate? Do they reflect your faith in God's ability to provide or is your giving based on what's left over in your budget? Do you tithe? Do your children see Godly examples of giving, saving and spending? Do you give less because you think tuition is enough? Are you giving sacrificially or is giving someone else's job? Have you considered auto-debiting your gifts?

3 Pray about a campaign pledge over three years

How do we respond to God's continued care over us? What is God asking of us as a leap of faith in this moment in St. Paul's long history, beyond our weekly giving? Consider these things as we come together as a church body and offer our commitments in gratitude, celebration, and unity toward the future of St. Paul's.

4 Consider bequest giving to the Endowment

We have been extremely blessed over the years with provision from God and His people through our Endowments— in fact, part of the mission of this campaign is to replenish what we used to pay for the HVAC rehab project. Without considered planning for end-of-life giving from past members, none of that would have been possible. We are using the Endowment to cover expenses now at such a rate, that it could be gone in a handful of years. Think about ways that you can leave behind a legacy that blesses future generations.

The Rededicated Campaign is a great opportunity for our church family to:

- Expand ministry by upgrading our facility and resources to make them more young family-, youth-, and senior- friendly
- Leave a legacy in Munster for sharing the hope in Christ with future generations
- Re-examine our priorities, rededicated to daily live out what we believe
- Know the joy of joining together in Christian unity, service, and caring
- Respond to God's love and eternal rededication to us by practicing deliberate and sacrificial giving, and teaching the same to our children and grandchildren

rededicated

a ministry expansion campaign at St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
STPLmunster.com
((219) 836-6270

rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to

The world is changing fast–

and not necessarily for the better– at an alarming rate. We who have faith in our risen Savior have quickly become counter-cultural in a post-Christian world. Yet, we remain anchored in the truth, the truth that saves.

So what does that mean for St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School, for the future of our mission and ministries?

It means we can no longer "coast," but instead we must be deliberate. If we continue giving at the rates we have been, taking shortfalls from the Endowments, leaking more time away from worship and our church family, there will be little left for the next generation here in Munster.

We must rededicate ourselves to expand our ministry, caring for our resources and our families so that truth, intact, reaches our neighbors and the next generations in Munster.

So, why now? **The answer is, we don't have to, we're choosing to. Good stewards know that maintenance is always best done before it is urgent that it be done. We already voted last year to update the aging HVAC system and to do a campaign to raise the funds. This campaign incorporates that one aspect of stewardship into a larger, more powerful rededication of St. Paul's. Forty years is a Biblical generation. Symbolically, the generation that laid the cornerstone has passed the torch to us.**

Rededicating ourselves to enthusiastically ensure that St. Paul's continues to proclaim the kingdom of Christ for years to come!

We need to reinvigorate ourselves spiritually, and make living the Christian life through the Holy Spirit priority-one in our lives, as a congregation, as families, and as individuals. And so we ask each one to consider being part of a miracle; by taking the five loaves and two fish that have been prepared for you, and with thanksgiving offer it back to the Savior to see how He will bless it!

7 habits of highly effective stewards

- Be Thankful
- Trust God to Provide
- Be Content
- Be Faithful Examples
- Live Within Your Means
- Give Time and Talent
- Give Treasure

A note from Pastor Speckhard

Rededicating. In one word, that is what we're doing here at St. Paul's.

Rededicating to the true reality of what goes on here is something that goes way beyond brick and mortar. The building enables our mission much like a house enables a family. This place was dedicated to the proclamation of the kingdom, the preaching of Christ crucified and risen, and the teaching of all generations to the very end of the age. When we take to heart the meaning and purpose of the place we naturally want it to thrive. We want the next generation to get from us what we got from those who came before us.

Rededicating ourselves and this place to the mission of the Gospel means working to make the ministry here sustainable, accessible, and inviting. We want the physical plant not only to be well-maintained but improved upon in hopes of facilitating congregational growth that we pass off to the next generation. We want everything we do here to be accessible to as many people as possible, including those who have difficulty getting around. We want to connect to our community with as welcoming and caring an environment as we can possibly provide.

Rededicating to this church and school ministry is especially important at a time when the society around us is wandering away from God's Word and His ways. But along with that added importance comes the added difficulty of doing something counter-cultural. But we need not fear because God has given us the wherewithal to do whatever He calls us to do.

God rededicates Himself to us day after day and week after week. That's why this place exists. We have been formed by the ministry here, and we want the same for the next generation. By God's grace we hope that forty years from now faithful Christian people here in Munster are rededicating St. Paul's again.

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

rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope to rededicate to hope