

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH



Living Into our Future Together

Our Redeemer has been working hard to be a meaningful and active congregation for both our members and the wider community and world. We are excited now as we move forward to focus on growing our membership and our ministries.

After much conversation and prayer, we believe what will help us become an even stronger church is to add continuity and leadership with a part-time minister. This position is designed to draw in new people to our congregation and coordinate ministries with children, youth, young adults, & families.

The Church Board, along with strong congregational support, has set us on this path to seek special funding for this exciting next step in our journey.

We invite you to join us as we **LIFT** up Our Redeemer.

**A Guide to
Support
the
Campaign**

**Frequently Asked Questions
Ways to Give
Commitment Guide**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the LIFT campaign?

LIFT stands for 'Living Into our Future Together'. Together, we have a vision of growth and vibrancy that will take us into 2020. The **LIFT** campaign is our financial appeal to fund a 3/4-time Associate Minister for at least a 3-year time period to help us become a stronger, more viable church. This individual will focus on outreach to help grow the congregation, lead our Children Youth and Family Ministry and develop a Young Adult Ministry. This campaign will also provide money for outreach and worship ministry expenses.

What is the financial goal of the campaign?

Our goal is to raise pledges totaling \$125,000 that will help fund this new position.

Is a pledge to this campaign in addition to my commitment to the annual budget?

Yes, the **LIFT** campaign pledge is separate and in addition to your annual giving pledge to the church.

You will find that the enclosed pledge card asks you to make two commitments, one for the general fund and one for the **LIFT** Campaign.

What are the dates for this campaign?

The **LIFT** campaign is being held in conjunction with the **Fall Annual Stewardship Campaign**. We are asking members to make a 3-year pledge to the **LIFT** Campaign that will begin January 1, 2018 and conclude on December 31, 2020. There will be a special presentation regarding the **LIFT** campaign on Sunday, November 5th, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 am. Please join us. We are asking everyone to return their commitment card on Sunday, November 12th.

Who is in charge of this campaign?

At the congregational annual meeting in January, members voted to move forward with a financial appeal for funds needed to support our plan for a 3/4-time Associate Minister over a 3-year time period. We have a dedicated funding campaign team in place to oversee this process as directed by the Church Board and congregation.

How much should I consider giving?

Each individual or family will make their own decision about their financial commitment. We encourage you to use prayer, conversation, these materials, and deep reflection to guide you. We offer these following suggestions:

LIFT Campaign:

Consider pledging at least half of what you gave to the 2014 Mission Appeal (facility improvements). If you have not pledged to a special campaign like this, we suggest a commitment that is equal to one-half of one year's general fund giving, and paying that over three years.

Annual Stewardship Drive:

We encourage you to consider making a 5% increase over what you gave to this fund last year to help cover annual cost increases in our general budget. We are pleased to share that three key leadership teams at the church have all committed to this level of giving.

How can I pay my pledge to the LIFT Campaign?

You may pay your pledge as a one-time gift, or over the specified 3-year time period. Your gift may be included in your offering envelopes, via electronic fund transfer, or by bringing it to the church office.

What if my financial situation changes before the end of the 3-Year Pledge period?

You may change your commitment pledge at any time by contacting the church office.

Ways to Give

You may choose to honor your pledge to the LIFT Campaign with weekly, monthly, or yearly payments. You may also choose to make a one-time gift. Here are some ideas about giving that you may not have considered.

Priority Budgeting:

Choose to rearrange some priorities to give a greater gift to this campaign. This may lead to postponing a planned purchase, or maybe eating out one less time per month.

Unexpected Cash:

Maybe you have recently sold an item you no longer use or are a benefactor of an inheritance.

Increases in Income:

If you have incremental salary increases, overtime pay, or bonuses consider including this as a part of your gift.

Special Giving:

Consider donating items of value, gifting stock, or using cash value from insurance policies.

The Ministry of an Associate Minister

Adding a 3/4-time Associate Minister will help to support our vision for Living into 2020. This vision of growth, engagement, and connection will require all of us to participate. The primary areas for this person will be:

Outreach Ministry and Engagement

Provide vision and leadership for this area. Assist with congregation membership growth and expanding partnerships in the community.

Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Family Ministries

Provide development and leadership for current programs, as well as new endeavors for Young Adults.

Worship

Provide regular worship leadership through planning, preaching, and presiding at worship.

Commitment Guide

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is comprised of givers of various amounts. We celebrate every single gift and giver. A pledge of ANY amount is an important and valued part of this campaign - **Every gift matters!**

Prior to making your commitment, please read over the materials, pray, and meditate on God's Word:

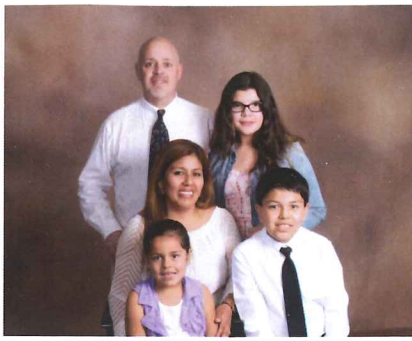
'Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'
Matthew 6:20-21

'They voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.' 2 Corinthians 8:3

Giving starts with trusting God and God's Abundance. An increase in gratitude and generosity can make a great impact in your life. You may be able to give more than you think by looking at it over a period of time.

Some examples are:

<u>3-Year Total</u>	<u>Annually</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
\$30,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$192
15,000	5,000	417	96
9,000	3,000	250	58
5,000	1,667	139	32
3,000	1,000	83	19
1,800	600	50	12
1,500	500	42	10
600	200	17	4
300	100	8	2
150	50	4	1



Our children's faith formation is high on our list of God's blessings that have been handed down to us in our many years at Our Redeemer. After prayerful consideration we will offer our support, both in time and resources, to help LIFT the Our Redeemer community.

Rob & Maria Barrett
Natalie, Louis, Vanessa

This has been a life-long community for us where our faith and friendships have grown.

We wish that for others and gladly support this initiative to reach more deeply into the surrounding community and build a renewed base for our church.

Dean and Diana Ersfeld



I believe that right now we stand at a turning point for Our Redeemer. Either we get busy living or get busy dying. It's really simple – where your money goes, so goes your heart. We will participate in the LIFT campaign for the good future of Our Redeemer.

Bruce Ring and Rita During

With a changing world around us, it can be difficult to be the church. Yet, that is what we are called to do! Our church has been blessed with many servant hearts and incredible resources. With the abundant blessings we have received, let's live into a strong and vibrant future together.

Karsten, Jackie, Katie and Elizabeth Nelson



*Thank You all for your faithful stewardship in our shared ministry.
Let us **LIFT** up ORLC and step out in faith and generosity for furthering our future.*

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the LIFT Campaign team:

Dean Ersfeld, Co-Chair and Church Treasurer
Pastor Karsten Nelson, Co-Chair

Tina Gray
Bruce Ring

Vicki Anderson
Jackie Nelson

Don Trimble
Michele Heimedinger

Carla Roper

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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October 22, 2017

Dear Our Redeemer Congregation,

The seasons are changing! That's what our calendar says. *"The times, they are a-changin'"* is what Bob Dylan sings. And in the Biblical book of Ecclesiastes we read, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven"*.

Whether it be from weather, music or Scripture, the world around us continues to change. We know this to be true in the church, too. Today, there are changes in the way people view the church, even seek out the church and certainly participate in the life and work of the church.

This is a difficult time to be the church, yet the reasons for being the church are still just as strong! We have a great God who desires relationship; Jesus' touch on our lives brings grace and calling and the Spirit is alive and stirring in hearts. The church is still the best place where God does God's work in our hearts and through our lives. We know God values the church as a place for touching our lives and calling us into the world. And, we value Our Redeemer as a vital place of ministry where we gather, grow, and are sent into the world. That is why we are preparing for a special fund drive.

In the spring of 2015, we came to the congregation knowing that we needed to tend to some major facility renovations to allow this church to keep functioning well and lean into new ministry. We are so grateful that you responded generously, and we have completed major renovations to our bathrooms, sanctuary roof and kitchen, along with various other smaller projects still taking place.

Now, we are coming to you as the congregation with our other main priority. That is to grow the congregation and develop our ministry with children, youth, young adults and families. We had a very successful pastoral intern program for nine years and during that time had a variety of youth staff. Members now wish to see a permanent minister on staff who can provide more continuity over many years and help us in new ways. It is to this end that we now come to you with an invitation to join us as we begin our new LIFT campaign, which will be a three-year campaign to lead us into a stronger future in terms of our membership and ministry.

LIFT stands for **Living Into Our Future Together**. Together, we want to focus on our growth in membership, our gathering in worship, and our going into the world. We have the year 2020 in our sites as a short-term goal line for becoming better as a congregation. Part of living into this future together will include reflecting on how we engage in the church and find calling in the world. But part of this living into our future together includes an invitation of financial generosity on each of our parts.

We invite you to read through these LIFT Campaign materials and to attend a session between worship services on Sunday, November 5th to learn more about this special fund drive. Please take some time to prayerfully read and engage in conversations around the LIFT Campaign materials and consider how God can use you and your gifts (financial and personal) to help Our Redeemer live into a stronger future.

The LIFT Funding Team

Dean Ersfeld, Vicki Anderson, Pastor Karsten and Jackie Nelson, Tina Gray, Michele Heimerdinger, Carla Roper, Bruce Ring and Don Trimble

Our Redeemer – Living into 2020

10/18/17

Sailors look at the horizon to give them a point of reference and direction. When you look out a pair of binoculars you pause and adjust the lenses so you can better bring into focus what lies beyond. And in scripture Proverbs 29:18 reads “Where there is no vision the people perish”.

Part of what is helpful as Our Redeemer lives into a stronger future together is having vision and goals that guide and direct us. We keep seeking to live into our mission of Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others.

Toward that end as we begin the LIFT Campaign for an associate minister and supplemental ministry expenses we have these goals and vision in front of us for 2020.

We invite you to find ways where your engagement will help at Our Redeemer, so that we do this work together, with and for our God.

Worship

We will increase our weekly worship attendance by at least 20 people per service

Engagement

We will develop 20 new leaders for ministry teams and other roles

Missions

**We will increase our Missions distribution by 20%
and involve 20 new people in mission projects**

Connections

**We will cultivate having 20 faith conversations per person
We will increase the people participating in small group studies by 20%**

Children, Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry

**We will increase our Sunday School participants to at least 20 students per week
We will engage 20 families/individuals with regular interactions and connections**

Giving

We will increase our General Fund giving by 20%

Membership

We will add at least 20 new households as members



Our Redeemer 2018 Commitment Card

Living Into our Future Together



I want to take the next step to support Our Redeemer and serve Christ by making the following commitment:

Commitment to the 2018 **General** Fund:

\$ _____ per week (or)
\$ _____ per month (or)
\$ _____ per year

Commitment to the **LIFT** Campaign
for a 3 year total of: \$ _____

\$ _____ per week or
\$ _____ per month (or)
\$ _____ per year (or)
\$ _____ as a one time gift

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please return on or by Sunday, November 12

2018 Commitment Card

For 2018, I will financially support the **General** Fund of ORLC by giving:

\$ _____ per week (or)
\$ _____ per month (or)
\$ _____ per year

And I will commit to the **LIFT** Campaign for a 3 year period:

\$ _____ per week (or)
\$ _____ per month (or)
\$ _____ per year

Please contact the church office if you need to revise this commitment.

Please keep this portion for your records