

KNOWING<sup>†</sup> GROWING<sup>†</sup> SERVING<sup>†</sup>

# Christ's Way

*Zion's Ministry  
Expansion Campaign*

## *Giving with Glad & Sincere Hearts!*

**Christ's Way**, our ministry campaign to expand Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool and ultimately transform the multipurpose room into a dedicated sanctuary, launched on Sunday, Oct. 2. Since then, our Campaign Inform Team has provided detailed information about the campaign through the mail and in-person forums. From this information, we know that our classrooms are at capacity and some grades have waiting lists because of consistently high enrollment in the school and preschool. Beyond that, school activities occupy every other usable space in the church:

- During the week, the sanctuary becomes a gymnasium and the boardroom a nap-time area for preschoolers.
- The cry room doubles as a space for one-on-one instruction with district reading specialists and small group instruction led by classroom aides.
- A supply closet has been converted into an office/classroom for special education instruction, and a pastor's office and the coat closet double as testing sites.
- The principal's anteroom serves as a place for school district services such as speech and occupational therapy, and the library is a catchall for health, music, Bible studies, the Dorcas sewing circle and more.

**Christ's Way** Ministry Expansion Campaign will address these problems of overcrowding in win-win fashion. Phase 1 will provide Zion with a new gymnasium, seven new classrooms and additional storage. It is important to note that as soon as the new gym and classrooms are built, our current multipurpose room will serve as the promised space for a dedicated sanctuary!

You're probably thinking that this project will be costly. Yes, \$4.5 million for Phase 1 is indeed a high price. It will take all of us working together to fund it. If we each ask God for direction in dedicating additional gifts over and above our regular giving, He will bless us. Just as LWML mites given regularly grow exponentially over time, so too will our gift giving grow, whether those gifts are given in large or small amounts, monthly or one-time. God desires that we give from the heart. We know this from the parable of the widow, who put her two very small copper coins in the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4).

You might also be wondering how you can be a part of solving this great need for our church, school, and preschool. Most importantly, we ask for your prayer and fellowship! Ask God to show you what you can do and how He wants you to participate. When you are asked to help with a project or to pray for the Campaign, make a dedicated commitment to do so. Acts 2:42-45 tells how the first Christians

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**“On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.” LSB 575**

# A Message from Your Campaign Chairs

This has opened my eyes in the way God spreads His ministry through us, His children.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Hearing stories of the way the Lord works in and through us to make things happen gets me excited to see what lies ahead for us with our **Christ's Way** Capital Campaign.

One such story that amazed me goes something like this:

Several churches in a city were working together on a capital campaign to build a new school. The pastor of one of the churches was new. At the first campaign meeting, he was asked to pray for the campaign. He had been involved in campaigns before, but nothing close to the size of this particular building project. This campaign required such a large gift that he doubted his prayer would be answered. He said, "I was more than overwhelmed and frightened to ask God for a gift this large."

Not only was God listening, but He showed the pastor how to pray for and ask for His guidance in the campaign.

Those involved with the project were looking at a five- to-six-year campaign. A land purchase was the first hurdle for the church. Through prayer, God provided for His people. The land was donated for the school! No one had anticipated that happening. The incredible donation inspired people to pray and give even more, because they could see that this new school was indeed a possibility, within reach, with God's help. The Lord continued to provide, and things kept falling in place. The five- to-six-year project was completed in less than 3 years!

God is far from done spreading the miracle of His ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool.

Please prayerfully consider how your talents, time, and gifts might bless our **Christ's Way** Campaign. Pray for the Lord's guidance as we move forward. Together, let's see what God has in store for us! Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

God's Blessings in all His miracles,  
Christ's Way Co-Chairs, Don Valenti & Bill Aker

## Giving with Glad & Sincere Hearts! (Continued from page 1)

devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer, and they did this with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Isn't that the ultimate goal—that our church and school grow so that more souls will be saved?

During November, the Inspire Team will be contacting Zion's members by phone and/or home visits to answer any remaining questions about the Christ's Way Ministry Expansion Campaign.

Please note that you will also be receiving an invitation to the Christ's Way Commitment Celebration, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11. Included with the invitation will be a commitment card. As we ask God to bless and direct us to a successful completion of this Capital Campaign, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a commitment of monies toward the expansion project, and bring your card in a sealed envelope to the Commitment Service on Dec. 11, 2022.

Inspire Team Members In His Service,  
Roger and Ann Woidtke, Directors

Richard & Kathie Wold, Andy and Betty Poljansek, Jane Kirschenmann, Cindy Purtell, Phil & Bambi Schweppe, Gail Aadland, Mark & Lori Fetzer, and Bill & Ruth Kudera

## UPCOMING CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Prayer Over  
Construction  
Site..... Sun., Nov. 13

Inspire  
Sunday #1 .... Sun., Nov. 13

Inspire  
Sunday #2... Sun., Nov. 20

Inspire  
Sunday #3.... Sun., Nov. 27

Leadership  
Commitment  
Dinner ..... Sun., Dec 4

Inspire  
Sunday #4..... Sun., Dec 4

Commitment  
Celebration . Sun., Dec. 11

First Gifts  
Dedication  
Sunday ... Sun., Jan. 1, 2023

# Expect the Unimaginable

## A Stewardship Testimonial by Lynette Epp

My husband, Jon, and I grew up in homes where we experienced some form of tithing. Jon was aware that his parents valued tithing 10% and saving 10% as a principle of living a good life. He witnessed that practice growing up. My mom extolled the blessings of tithing. There was a period of time when my family experienced financial difficulties, but my mom was sure to point out that even a lean month was not a time to quit giving to the church. In fact, those were the times when it was all the more important to give. I recall time after time where we had little money and were having to stretch what we could until the next payday. God always provided in some way. This opened my eyes to the blessing of giving.

After getting married, Jon and I easily agreed upon the importance of giving or tithing to the church. Agreeing is one thing but living it out is another. Like most families, we have experienced financially hard times. Raising a family takes money. So, when we felt called by God to adopt, we had no idea where the money would come from. Still, we continued to tithe. We knew if we were obedient to God, He would be faithful to us.

Many of you were members when we adopted our girls. Zion supported us by hosting a fundraiser dinner, which covered the cost of a home study. We applied for an adoption grant and were turned down, but my mom gave us money just before we flew to China to bring Lily home with us. During that adoption, we never stopped giving to the church just because we were giving of ourselves in another way.

God provided so many blessings beyond money during that first adoption. Most notably, a young Rapid City man who happened to be in China offered to assist us if we came to Changsha, Hunan Province. At the time, we hadn't been matched to a child yet and didn't know to what part of China we would travel. The night this man reached out to us, we received our match. Lily was in Changsha, China! I couldn't believe it at first! In all of China, our child and this man were in the same locality.

The second adoption was even more of a financial strain because I had purchased a franchise that I had hoped would

help us financially. I drove from Black Hawk to Box Elder twice a day every day to run this business in 2006. At the time, gas climbed to \$4 a gallon. After one year of business, I was barely breaking even. The franchise ran a national promotion for all of its franchisees. I won, which meant I would receive \$5,000. We used that \$5,000 to pay off our first adoption.

Now we were free to start the second adoption, but our budget was getting tighter. I would literally cry on the way to work each morning, asking God to provide someone to take over my business. I was at the point that staying home and doing nothing would have put me ahead. That summer I entered the KSLT Hills Alive Contest and won a side of buffalo.

It was an instant reminder to me that God would take care of us. I still had no interested parties in my business. I continued to pray for release from my business, but God had other plans. The franchise did one more promotion. This time it was a challenge for all of its franchisees to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The prize... a trip for two to China. Once again, I couldn't believe it. To keep the story short, I won! This was obviously one reason God wanted me to stay in that business.

Shortly after that promotion, one of my clients bought my business. Oh, and remember the grant that had turned us down for the first adoption? We qualified for it on the second adoption and received it.

As hard as life was at times, we never stopped giving to the church. I want to add

that every day through all of these events, I had an incredible prayer partner. It was prayer, faith, and tithing that brought home our two girls.

God continues to bless us in ways we think are unimaginable. Most recently Lily found out she has a biological sister who lives only minutes away from our oldest son in Boston. This family has become part of our family.

Zion has a mission to train up children in the way they should go—*Christ's Way*. I encourage each of you to give over and above your general giving and to expect the

*"God continues to bless us in ways we think are unimaginable."*



*Unimaginable.*



KNOWING\*GROWING\*SERVING\*  
**Christ's Way** | Zion's Ministry  
Expansion Campaign  
4550 Mt Rushmore Rd  
Rapid City, SD 57701

## Questions or prayer requests about the *Christ's Way* Campaign?

Visit our *Christ's Way* web page:  
[www.zionrc.org/Christ'sWay](http://www.zionrc.org/Christ'sWay)

Pick up a **Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQ) document** or submit a **Question Submission form** in the narthex

**Prayer Request forms** are available in the narthex

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Commitment Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

Worship – 11:00 am  
Lunch Provided – Noon  
Program – 1:00 pm

Invitations to come!

## Christ's Way Prayer

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And here is the second, which is similar to it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:38-39)*

With the planned building expansion at Zion, we will have more space for more families to be part of our school and church family. As we look forward to the expected growth of Rapid City, please pray for those families that will join us. We can also pray for others in the community now, especially the unchurched. All these people are our neighbors.

According to the US Census Bureau, Rapid City is the fastest growing city in the Midwest. Many people are moving here for various reasons. Consequently, the Rapid City area is expected to grow by an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people over the next ten years. Rapid City is the place to live. So, what kind of prayers can we pray for our neighbor?

- Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with the unchurched, including those who are here now and future neighbors who do not yet know Christ.
- Pray that Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool would be a place where they may grow in Christ's Love.
- Pray that workers involved in Zion's build (construction workers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tradesmen of any kind) will encounter the grace and love of Christ as they interact with the members of Zion.
- Pray for opportunities to share Christ's love with tourists from around the world and prospective home buyers who visit Rapid City. The mission field is right here.

*Dear Lord, we thank you for the blessing of prayer, that we can always talk to you. We pray that you will bless our worship of You in all the activities ongoing at Zion. Please bless the capital campaign and all involved in it at this exciting time. Please bless the families, our neighbors, that will be part of Zion in the years to come. May You grow them and us spiritually. We pray for opportunities to share Your love with those with whom we come in contact, so they may know You as their personal Savior. In Jesus Name. Amen!*