

## **Building on the Cornerstone**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow! We are very blessed at St. Peter Lutheran where God's Word is preached and taught at our Church and School. Thanks be to God for His Word which points us to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Since 1880, the ministry of St. Peter has been focused on Christ, our Cornerstone, and that focus has not changed. As we prepare to move forward with plans to enhance the ministry at St. Peter, we pray that future generations will be blessed, as we have been blessed, by the work of the faithful before them.



The development of a Master Plan began almost a decade ago. The Vision Committee of St. Peter began working with the Three Rivers Design Group on a Master Plan in 2013, and included a needs assessment for the congregation to guide the plan. In October of 2020, the Long Term Planning Committee reviewed and updated the Master Plan with the help of Three Rivers Design Group based on further input from leadership, boards and committees, and congregational members. The new organ recommendation from the Organ Committee was also added to the Master Plan.

On September 13, 2021, our Voters' Assembly approved a Stewardship Life Capital Campaign to implement the Master Plan. It was also approved that we would work with the Timothy Group and that committees would be assembled to carry out this campaign. A Stewardship Life Campaign Steering Committee was formed and began its work on the Building on the Cornerstone Campaign.

Our Building on the Cornerstone Campaign started with two phases. The first phase began on November 7, 2021, with a Leadership Phase, and the second phase started on January 9, 2022, with the Congregational Phase which concluded on February 13, Commitment Sunday. The total goal of our Building on the Cornerstone Campaign is \$8 million. The Stewardship Life Campaign Steering Committee sincerely thanks everyone who has committed and donated to the Building on the Cornerstone Campaign thus far. All congregational gifts up to \$2.5 million will be matched dollar for dollar even if you have not yet submitted a commitment card. Below is where we are currently at in our Building on the Cornerstone Campaign:

- \$600,000 Current funds (prior to Campaign)
- \$2,400,000 Committed to the Campaign but not matchable
- \$2,500,000 Total Matching Funds available
- \$1,700,000 Committed in Leadership Phase
- \$400,000 Committed in Congregational Phase (as of Feb. 13)
- **\$400,000** **Needed in commitments and/or donations**
- \$8,000,000 Total



If you haven't committed yet, prayerfully consider how you will support the campaign. Additional commitment cards are available on the table in the narthex.

On Sunday, February 20, 2022, our Voters' Assembly authorized Church Council to form a Building Committee to proceed with the implementation of the Master Plan. The Voters also authorized the Building Committee to finalize the Master Plan design to bring back to the Voters' Assembly for approval. It is anticipated that over the course of the next several months, there will be periodic informational meetings for congregational updates and input. Subcommittees will likely be formed in the future to focus on certain aspects of the project, and the Building Committee will look for volunteers to bring additional ideas and suggestions from congregational members. Once there are final designs, the Building Committee will seek Voters' approval of the design to begin construction documents.

In addition to finalizing designs for our Master Plan, it is anticipated that at the April Voters' Meeting the Building Committee will request Voters' approval to sign the Construction Contract for the new organ. This contract will commit St. Peter to purchase the material for the organ pipes at a cost of between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Updates on the progress of our Building on the Cornerstone Campaign can be found on our website ([stpeterhemlock.org](http://stpeterhemlock.org)), at the table in the narthex, and through information provided in our church bulletin and newsletter. Informational meetings will also take place during the next few months to help keep the congregation informed of the progress being made by the Building Committee.

We are at a time in our congregation's history that we can positively impact future generations to continue to have a place where Christ our Cornerstone is proclaimed. May God bless our work together by praying daily, giving generously, and encouraging others to pray and give.