



# Growing in Grace

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen — 2 Peter 3:18*

Case Statement

September 12, 2013

There is a pressing need for a confessional Lutheran church and classical school in the nation's Capital. God has richly blessed Immanuel with faithful Scriptural teaching, an overflowing communion rail, and school classrooms bursting at the seams. We need to seize this moment. Now is the time to cement Immanuel's place in Alexandria for generations to come. This capital campaign will raise funds to do just that - enhance the sanctuary, build more classrooms, and improve our aging facility. **We ask God's help to grow in grace.**

## Let's Go

We've talked about it for years. Our hopes for an enhanced sanctuary. Our vibrant school filling out every available square foot of our campus. Our less-than-adequate bathrooms and our aging facility.

The members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School have spent the last few years giving much thought about how God has blessed us and put us in a position of growth. We know we need to improve and expand our facilities and so we voted in February to hire Wittenberg Church Consultants to help us run a capital campaign to raise funds to do just that.



A lot of work goes into running a capital campaign, so we hit the ground running in order to have the entire campaign in front of the congregation before the end of the year. Recruitment began with our dedicated and capable Co-Directors — Mark Pfundstein and Whitney Work. Leaders for the various campaign teams followed and we

held our first training meeting on June 20th and 21st. The first order of business for the team leaders was to identify the Case Statement for the campaign.

The Case Statement is the succinct, scriptural and inspiring statement of what the campaign intends to accomplish. The Case Statement for our capital campaign is printed above. With our purpose already set for us by our members, we simply needed to give it some detail, fill it with inspiration and make sure it was grounded and centered on Christ.

Please take a moment to read and digest the case statement. We'll be returning to it again and again in the weeks ahead.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

*September 22: Attend Kick-Off Sunday*

*September 23: Begin Using 90 Days of Prayer*

*October 5-6: Wilderness First Steps Weekend*

*October 7: Begin Wilderness Journey*

*October 19: Participate in Prayer Vigil and Spiritual Commitment Events*

*October 20: Spiritual Commitment Sunday*

*October 22: Make Sure to RSVP to your Home Gathering Host*

*October 27-November 9: Attend Home Gathering and RSVP to Pledge Event*

*November 17: Attend Pledge Event and Return Pledge Card*

*December 15: Attend Celebration Event*

## Spiritual Renewal and Stewardship

One of the main reasons we chose Wittenberg Church Consultants to guide us in our stewardship campaign is because of the two-phase approach of their program.

Before we even think about finances, we'll spend several weeks focusing on our lives as Christians and what it means to be children of God and members of this congregation.



We call this time the "Wilderness" because we ask each member to spend time in prayer and contemplation.

You will receive a booklet describing Spiritual Exercises that will help you to strengthen your faith and a "Spiritual Pledge Sheet" to complete and turn in on Spiritual Commitment Sunday, October 20.

It will only be after we have all given thought and commitment to our spiritual lives that we will begin to speak and learn more about our personal stewardship and the financial needs of this campaign.

So we'll take two journeys with our fellow members, spiritual and stewardship, in the next three months.

## We Will All Be Praying Together!

Included with this newsletter is a booklet called "90 Days of Prayer." The booklet contains a very short prayer for each day of the "Growing in Grace" campaign. It also provides a few reminders of important events throughout the campaign. "Day 1" is Monday, September 23.

For now, please take a moment to determine where you might keep the booklet so that it is most handy for you during the 90 days of the "Growing in Grace" campaign. If you think that an extra copy might make your prayer life easier, contact the church office.

Beginning on Monday, September 23, we are asking each of our members to take a minute each day to add the daily petition to their individual or family prayer time. Just think how inspiring it will be to know that you are praying the same prayer as your fellow members each day!

For more than 140 years, Immanuel Lutheran has been reaching out in faith to bring God's Word to our members, our school families and those in the community. We have come together as a congregation to accomplish great things for God's kingdom. When we set our minds to a project, our members respond with amazing energy and generosity. We pray that our "Growing in Grace" campaign will also bring us together as we raise funds to accomplish our shared goals.

## Home Gathering Meetings Build Bonds Among Members

When my children were young, I used to look for ways to explain to them who was a stranger and who was a friend. I finally settled on the advice that we could be sure someone was a friend if we had visited them in their home or shared food with them.

That's why I think home meetings among church members are so important. Over the years I have taken part in many church activities where we opened our home or where we visited the home of another member for a meeting or social function.

To this day, I feel I know those people better than others here at church. They are my church friends!

Beginning on Sunday, October 27, you can make new church friends by participating in one of the "Growing in Grace" Home Gathering meetings. Host a gathering or attend a gathering. You will learn about the campaign, and you will have a good time!

*Donna Linnemeyer Wittenberg Church Consultants*

*Have You Ever Seen a Human Case Statement? Come to Immanuel on Kick-Off Sunday, September 22, and you will!*



## What Can I Expect at the Home Gathering?

Well, for one, **you will not be asked to make a financial commitment** there.

What you can expect is an hour or so in relaxed fellowship with a group of members from your congregation. There will be light refreshments, time for chit-chat, your first look at the **“Growing in Grace”** video, a review of the campaign brochure and a short Bible study. Nobody will be “put on the spot” about anything.

This is a time for all members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School to share their thoughts and dreams for their congregation, to build each other up as fellow members of this church and school and to just get to know each other a little better.

A great group of volunteers have offered to serve as Home Gathering hosts, and this same group will be contacting you on a few occasions to make sure you are planning to attend all of the campaign events. Please give them a few minutes of your time when they call to make sure you are fully plugged into the campaign events.

## Wittenberg Church Consultants

The members of Immanuel are being guided in the **“Growing in Grace”** stewardship campaign by Wittenberg Church Consultants out of Naperville, Illinois.

The Rev. Dr. Tim Rossow is heading up the preparations and training and has written many of the materials that will be used in the campaign. Pastor Rossow has served in the pastoral ministry for over 25 years and received his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Church Organization from



Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Donna Linnemeyer has done congregational program administration for the past 18 years and has a

degree in Business Administration.

Pastor Rossow and Donna Linnemeyer have conducted and designed stewardship programs for their own congregation and are now sharing their experience with other churches. They bring the unique perspective of “having sat where you are sitting” to the campaign



process. They truly enjoy sharing their insights and helping congregations with planning, renewal and stewardship programs.

Says Pastor Rossow, “Early on we found that the most important component in a campaign is spiritual growth. Our goal is to get every member at Immanuel to examine where they stand in relation to the cross of Christ. Once that happens, everything else falls into place.”

## Quiet on the Set ... Now, Action!

Watch for a brief burst of video cameras around Immanuel as our **“Growing in Grace”** campaign kicks off.

A short video is planned as part of the campaign to give us some background, inspire us and tell us about the purpose and goals of the campaign.

Immanuel’s own SOMEONE? is heading up a team of volunteers to film, edit and make copies of the final product.

Don’t be shy about participating if asked! The video will debut at the Home Gatherings.



# Team Leaders

*God has blessed us with a great team of volunteers to head up our campaign. The teams and team leaders are listed below. The team leaders have begun to recruit team members and we will continue to add to our teams as the campaign moves forward.*

<b>Campaign Co-Directors:</b> Mark Pfundstein and Whitney Work	<b>Children and Youth Director:</b> Katherine Hudnall	<b>Follow-up Director:</b> Matthew Braun	<b>Prayer Component Director:</b> ?????
<b>Pastor:</b> Christopher Esget	<b>Communications Director:</b> Mark Hemingway	<b>Information Technologies Director:</b> Eric Gorr	<b>Word and Sacrament Director:</b> Paul Techau
<b>Advance Commitment/ Pledge Director:</b> Wayne Schroeder	<b>Fellowship and Food Director:</b> Alina Hotaling	<b>Mailing Director:</b> Dee Hardtke	<b>Campaign Coordinator:</b> Kassie Esget
<b>Commitment Director:</b> Don Kahl		<b>Member Contact/Cottage Host Director:</b> Elizabeth Lewis	

*We have opportunities for all members to plug into the campaign. If you are asked to join a team, please give an enthusiastic “Yes!” If you cannot join a team, we still hope to see you at all of our events. Watch for news each week and for three more newsletters in the months ahead.*

## Kristina Phillips on “Growing in Grace”



The Immanuel community is far larger than those we see every Sunday. We’re also connected to the many families who have moved on from Immanuel to points all over the globe. Among those are the members of the Phillips family. Eric and Kristina Phillips were married here at Immanuel in 2003. They both received Ph.D.s from Catholic University in 2006.

They’re not just scholars. In addition to his academic expertise in patristics, Eric’s one of Immanuel’s seminarians. And Kristina isn’t just a scholar of medieval literature; she has a distinguished background as a talented graphic designer.

In fact, Kristina designed the logo for our capital campaign. She explained her approach.

“The image of growth -- I couldn’t get around that. Because you could look at church as a building or as an organism. In this case, I was looking at the church as ‘Christ is the vine and Christ’s people are the branches.’”

She also explained how her background in medieval literature influenced her design choices. “There’s a medieval tradition of representing the cross as the tree, how Christians even went so far as to color it green to represent that. It just kind of clicked. If you’re talking about growing in grace at Immanuel that is impossible without Christ. Christ is central to everything we do. I knew there had to be a cross in there.”

We are blessed to have such talented individuals in our community. Kristina and Eric live in North Carolina with their children Caedmon, Iona and Helena.

