



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

November 19, 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.**

Celebration Coming

Our Pledge Events certainly were fun, upbeat experiences for all those who participated. We were able to mix and mingle, we were treated to delicious food, we were entertained, and we did all of this in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We hope you were able to take part in most of the *Growing in Grace* campaign events. If you did, then you have received the full benefit of learning all about why we started this capital campaign and what we hope to do with the funds that are pledged and given.

Take a look at the Case Statement above once again. It explains why we are doing a capital campaign.

We are in the final stretch now. If you have not yet decided how to respond to this campaign, please spend some time in thoughtful prayer in the next few weeks. If you have already made a spiritual pledge last month and a financial pledge this month, we thank you!

Then, join us on Sunday, December 15, when we celebrate God's amazing blessings on our *Growing in Grace* campaign. By then, we will have a total of all the pledges that have been made so far.

Soon everyone will be receiving an invitation to the Celebration Event along with a special envelope for your Celebration Offering. All members

will be asked to bring this offering forward on Sunday, December 15, as we did with our Spiritual Pledges and as we did with our Financial Pledges. This procession to the altar represents our active commitment to expand God's church here at Immanuel.

Don't miss this last big event of our *Growing in Grace* campaign.



STEP BY STEP FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

Now

- Continue praying the petitions in your "90 Days of Prayers" booklet.
- If you still have your Pledge Card at home, fill it out and bring it to the church or mail it in as soon as possible.
- Remember, if you are not in a position to make a financial pledge at this time, your pledge to support the campaign in prayer is just as important and should be turned in as soon as possible.
- If one of our Follow Up team members reaches you before you turn in your Pledge Card, please give them a few minutes of your time and let them know if you have any questions or concerns.

December 15

- Come to church with your Celebration Offering and help us rejoice in God's blessings.

Immanuel Leadership Pledges \$265,000

Campaign team officials and other church leaders gathered Saturday, November 2, at the home of Aaron and Elizabeth Lewis for dinner and fellowship.

Sixteen pledges totaling \$265,000 were made -- a great blessing from God!

May we all follow their lead with cheerful and sacrificial pledges so that we can reach our goal.

So What's Next?

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just had our major Pledge Event. We are all praying that this event is a terrific success and that all of our members took part in the pledge process and enjoyed the fellowship of the day.

You may not have been able to attend church on November 17 or otherwise not turned in your pledge card.

Don't worry, you can still turn in your pledge card to the church or give it to one of the members of our Follow-Up Team. If this is not a good time for you to make a financial pledge, please simply indicate on the card that you will support *Growing in Grace* through prayer. Our goal is to get a Pledge Card back from each member.

This team, led by Matthew Braun, is in charge of contacting all members who have not yet made a pledge. Then, after these early weeks of follow-up, this team will make sure that we all stay informed and on track through communication and events for the next three years.

We'll have a newsletter or fun and meaningful event about once a quarter for the next three years.

When It's All Finished...

- Our sanctuary will be bright and welcoming.
- Our communion rail will be more accessible.
- Our kitchen will be large, modern and functional.
- Our bathrooms will be the best bathrooms in the history of the world (or at least in the history of Immanuel).
- Our school will have additional classrooms to serve our growing student population.





Home Gatherings Bring Members Together

The Home Gathering component of the *Growing in Grace* campaign is designed to get members together to share their thoughts and dreams for the congregation. We thank all those who took the time to attend a Gathering and hope that you enjoyed the time you spent there.

Many people especially enjoyed the campaign video, which captured the thoughts of our members while also explaining what the campaign hope to accomplish.

If you were unable to attend a Home Gathering, you should have received the printed materials from the meeting in the mail by now. If you have not yet seen the *Growing in Grace* video, please contact the church office to get a copy so that you can see it.

We would especially like to thank Elizabeth Lewis and Kara Lloyd who led the Member Contact/Home Gathering Team.

Special thanks go to our Home Gathering Hosts and to those who led the meetings, including: Jordan and Joel Gehrke, Blake and Katie Hollander, Todd and Sharon Foust, Sam Parker and Kara Lloyd, Fritz and Barbara Pauling, Paul and Mary

Techau, Ed and Ruthie Szeto, Scott and Alina Hotaling, Roberta Heintz, Mark Pfundstein, and the Golden Group.

A Note From Our Consultants

It's been more than a year since we first started working with the good folks at Immanuel Lutheran Church. When we first visited Immanuel, we were greeted by a friendly group of church leaders and learned of your exciting plans to expand and improve your facilities. We saw in those plans a boldness that comes from faith and also a bit of hesitation that comes from responsible stewardship.



We took great pleasure in getting to know you better, learning about your past and seeing how God led you to this place and time in your church's history. The feasibility study that we did revealed two important facts to us: Immanuel is a rock-solid congregation in its beliefs, doctrine and theology and Immanuel needs to grow its facilities to that it can better perform the duties of the church and school.

Now, throughout these past several weeks, we have gotten even more familiar with your congregation and school and our time here has just simply reinforced our initial impression. Pastor Esget is a gifted preacher and teacher. He lovingly and

clearly bring you pure Law and Gospel each week in worship and in Bible Study.

Your members, of all ages, are equipped to witness their faith in a clear and confident manner. Your contributions to the video taping were so impressive that we had a difficult time choosing which footage to use.

Yes, Immanuel is a rock-solid, Bible-based, Lutheran congregation and yes, Immanuel needs to make room for the preaching, teaching, forgiving of sins and the friendly caring that goes on within its walls. May God truly bless your bold steps to build the facility that will allow you to better teach the word, prepare the sacrament, sing praises and welcome the community.



Thank You To Our Volunteers

We first thank God for the wonderful success of our *Growing in Grace* campaign. He has blessed us with faithful pastors and lay leaders in the past and continues to raise up men and women to serve His church at Immanuel.

We thank those who served on the Saylor Committee that initiated the plans that will allow us to have more reverent worship, joyful fellowship and new classrooms. We thank those who served on the Financial Feasibility Committee that helped us understand what type of fundraising our efforts would entail.

And we thank those who served as Directors and Team Leaders for our *Growing in Grace* campaign:

Campaign Co-Directors: Mark Pfundstein and Whitney Work

Prayer Component Director: Christopher Esget, assisted by Emily German

Advance Commitment/Pledge Director: Wayne Schroeder

Commitment Director: Don Kahl

Children and Youth Director: Katherine Hudnall

Communication Director: Mark Hemingway

Fellowship and Food Director: Alina Hotaling

Follow-up Director: Matthew Braun

Information Technologies Director: Eric Gorr

Mailing Director: Dee Hardtke

Member Contact/Home Gathering Director: Elizabeth Lewis

Word and Sacrament Director: Paul Techau

Campaign Coordinator: Kassie Esget

