

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the “Forward In Freedom” campaign?

A capital campaign that asks stakeholders of the ministry at MVLCS to prayerfully consider gifts above and beyond their normal tithes and offerings to the end that our campus facilities are best set up to facilitate the ministry God has entrusted to us to carry out.



Is my campaign commitment above and beyond my regular giving?

Yes, your commitment over the three-year period will be in addition to your regular financial support of our congregation.



What if my income fluctuates? What if I need to cut back on my pledge or should I cut back on my tithe?

If unforeseen circumstances impact the commitment that you make as part of this Forward in Freedom campaign please let our campaign leaders know as soon as possible. There will be annual opportunities to evaluate your commitment in order to make changes for an increase or decrease in commitment, or to stay the same.



I have been trying to increase my giving annually, should I put that increase towards my commitment or continue to increase my giving?

This is a deeply personal question that will vary by particular circumstances. We are planning our MVLCS budget with projected changes typical of our trend going on several years of increases in congregational giving. A one on one conversation with one of the pastors or one of the members of our campaign leadership team can help you walk through particular personal considerations.



Who is LCEF? Why are we doing the campaign with them?

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. They specialize in assisting churches with projects such as ours. The loans we have now are all held through LCEF and they have been very helpful in assisting us with issues like refinancing. We have had a wonderful relationship with them for many years and therefore we have trust in LCEF. Further, our campaign consultant, Rev. Randy Raasch is a working pastor in Cedarburg, WI and has gone through this process with his own congregation. The combination of LCEF's expertise and trustworthiness make them the best partner for us to consider in a capital campaign and for future funding needs.



How will we be kept up-to-date concerning progress on the capital campaign?

A campaign team is recruited and working out a plan with LCEF that will ensure communication and information is going out to the congregation related to the campaign on a timely basis.



How were decisions made concerning the Master Plan? We have gone to great lengths to secure congregational involvement and commitment at every step. Our “Beyond 2020” Team put together an event to solicit input from the entirety of the MVLCS community, culminating in a Beyond 2020 brainstorming event in April 2019. Congregation feedback was used by the Beyond 2020 Leadership Team to distill our new Vision Statement and was also used to develop the Ministry Plan.

Similarly, congregation input was instrumental in the formation of a new campus plan, in a separate brainstorming event in August 2019 with LCEF. Our Capital Improvement Team met with a design/build team to design the new campus renderings used for consideration of the capital campaign. The plans went through the Board of Directors elected by the congregation before moving to the congregation for a vote. The congregation voted unanimously in a Voter meeting on January 5, 2020 with a protracted discussion to enter into the capital campaign process. Additionally, the congregation will have several opportunities to speak to the plan moving into the future.



How will the congregation know what is going on and where we are in process?

1. *Inform Events* - an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
2. *Commitment Cards* - the decision to make a commitment will be deeply personal decisions for every family and individual.
3. Another Voter Meeting will be required to be able to use the commitments received in the Forward in Freedom campaign for funding.
4. We have an opportunity to make adjustments to the campus drawings currently in our possession once it is time to select contractors and create blueprints for work to be done on site over the next few years

Q How will larger classrooms positively affect education? Education best practices are much different today than they were 25 years ago when our school campus was built. Having ample room for students to learn and for teachers to set up learning stations is critical. Additionally a new generation of parents is confronted with far more choices on where to enroll their children. It's important that our classrooms put a best foot forward in this regard. New classrooms, modeled for future educational trends will greatly assist in building on our well established and hard earned reputation for years to come.

Q Why are we building for programs that aren't yet launched? It is important to have the space available as we develop new avenues for mission and ministry. Our congregation spoke with one voice to move into our Master Plan (including our Ministry Plan) in a Voter Meeting on Sunday, January 5th. The spaces envisioned can also fit many different needs.

Q When will we start building? Assuming congregation approval some work on the campus may be able start as early as summer 2020. The work will be spread out over the next three years, accounting for the schedule of our school and other campus events to fit in work at times that cause minimal disruption to normal operations.

Q How long will it take to build out the campus plans? That will depend on how many commitments are made and the gift follow through. Ideally this work would be split into two phases, each lasting three years. Our best case scenario target date for the full build out of the campus plan is fall 2027. If the response to our Forward In Freedom capital campaign is greater than anticipated, the timetable may be shortened.

Q How were the building costs calculated? Our architect and builder who developed our campus renderings worked together on construction cost estimates.

Q How much do we anticipate receiving in the Forward in Freedom campaign commitments relative to actual building costs? We have identified a confident goal of \$1,000,000 in commitments for the Forward in Freedom campaign, with a courageous goal of \$1,500,000. Final cost projections for Phase I of our campus plan is between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000.

Q Can we manage the debt without interrupting our regular operations? In short - yes. By refinancing with LCEF this summer and based on \$1,000,000 in our confident commitment goal we envision roughly \$5,500/month added to our debt. This is an amount we are capable of carrying.

Q How will the final decision to move forward with our plans be made? With construction of this scale, the consent of the congregation in a Voter Meeting will be sought.

Q What if we don't reach \$1,000,000? Of course we are praying for the people of Mountain View to be moved by the Lord to accomplish great things. The \$1,000,000 dollar goal was selected because trends in our congregation indicate we have the resources available to reach this figure. Any alterations in the plans would be discussed by the Board with recommendations to the Voters.

Q Why did the Voters decide to make changes to the campus rather than conducting a debt reduction campaign? The Voters decided to move Forward in Freedom because of our shared ministry future and the vision under which we are living together - "We are God's chosen people, adopted in baptism, forgiven through God's Gifts and sent on His mission to love and disciple others." The proposed campus changes serve the Ministry Plan by enabling Mountain View to move Forward in Freedom to live out our planned ministry future in the 20s, 30s and beyond. Please refer to the Forward in Freedom brochure, which makes a compelling case for this new future and why each piece of it is vital to our ministry together!

Q Is it wise to launch the Forward in Freedom campaign right now in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? Our Leadership Team believes it is essential that we continue on with the Forward in Freedom campaign. Financials always and *only* happen according to God's will – pandemic or not. As the people of God, sent on God's mission to love and disciple others there's nothing more important than to keep moving forward with the comfort and hope promised in the Good News of Jesus Christ crucified, risen and coming again. We continue to be called and sent forward in God's name to love and serve our neighbor, especially now!