

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
June 23, 2021

“OFF AND RUNNING”

“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:20)

A good number of us attended a *“Think Tank”* meeting here at the church last evening as some of the details about our fundraising campaign that bears the name *“Immeasurably More”* were explained to us. Another big part of the meeting was the gathering of information from you specifically about this congregation in regard to our strengths, challenges, our ministry opportunities and the needs of our community. All of this will go together in fine tuning our 3-year project to our unique context. With the help of our Campaign Consultant, Rev. Randy Raasch of Cedarburg, WI, we are officially off and running. Our goal is to raise enough capital to pay for our new church building over the next 3 years, and in doing so minimize any borrowing that we’ll need to do in order to bring it to completion. Along with the fundraising aspect there are also congregational life and ministry pieces that we wish to accomplish as well. These include our individual and corporate growth in the knowledge and grace of God, the growth of our prayer lives, the establishment of a small *“home group”* ministry, along with greater outreach into the community in sharing the love of Jesus with those all around us. All of us will have a part to play in this, and not just in the offering and giving of some of our financial resources. We will be asking for assistance in carrying out this 4-phase campaign over its 3-year period, and especially in the next 6 months. A leadership team has been formed, and they will be commissioned before you this Sunday morning in worship. They are Gerry Corbino, our Campaign Director, Kerri Keller, Campaign Coordinator, Kay Albrecht, Campaign Communication Director, and Debbie Zwick, Campaign Prayer Leader. Each of these *“team leaders”* will be recruiting a team to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities. Also this Sunday morning, June 27th, I will be distributing a *“Ministry Interest Participation Survey”* to everyone at the conclusion of our worship service. It will only take a few minutes to fill out, and it will let us know what areas that you have the skills and interest to help out. I will also include this survey in my Saturday Devotion email for our seasonal members and anyone who would like to come to church Sunday already having completed it. It’s a Word document so you can simply email your filled out form back to me.

On more than one occasion I have referred to this campaign as probably our last opportunity in this life to give of our individual blessings in order to be a blessing for our congregation and our community, especially the generations coming after us, even those yet to be born. I don’t know about you, but I figure this is the last church building project that I’ll ever be involved with. I’m pretty sure of that as I plan to remain here at TLC until I begin worshiping before the throne of God in heaven...as pastor for now and in retirement I hope to be able to stay on promising not to cause trouble. Jesus encourages us not to store up earthly treasure, as it’s temporary and transient, but rather store up true treasure in working for and giving to those things that will build up the eternal kingdom of God, increasing the population of heaven. The treasures of this world will all be left behind on the day we leave for heaven. The heavenly treasures will be there to greet us upon our arrival and will be with us to enjoy forever and ever. I know that most of us can look back upon our lives and see where God has constantly blessed us, given us, and done for us immeasurably more than we ever asked or even dared to imagine. I certainly know that this is true for me and my family. God now has the opportunity to do it again, do immeasurably more than we can ask or even imagine THROUGH US as we build a church building that will stand in this community for 100s of years and be the base of our Gospel ministry, our loving care for one another, our growing in the knowledge and grace of God and our sharing of all God’s love in Jesus Christ to all of our neighbors in this community and from here to the ends of the earth!