

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
July 21, 2021

"ALL IN DUE TIME!"

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6)

Perhaps you've already heard, we're planning a building project. Yes. That's right, a new church building with fellowship space, new offices, a much larger sanctuary, a choir room, a sacristy, a meeting room, and everything else that you would need for worshiping our amazing and awesome God. A lot goes into planning something like this. First you have to figure out what you need to build, and what it's going to look like. Once you get that far there are a bazillion details that have to be figured out. Architects and engineers are good resources for doing all of that. Next you have to figure out how much all this is going to cost. That's been really difficult for us as the cost of building materials has skyrocketed in the past year or so. We've come to the point of almost being able to zero in on what our number will be. Then you need to know how we're going to pay for it all. Can we afford to do this? We're working on that too. We've got to come up with a sizeable sum of money over the next three years, and probably have to do some borrowing as well. We want to minimize what we have to borrow. Capital campaigns are a good and proven resource for this phase of a building project, and we are engaging in one through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. They call their program "Immeasurably More", based on the Scripture in Ephesians 3:20-21, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*" There are two main ideas here, first, that God can do so abundantly more than we can think to ask for or even imagine, and secondly, all that He does for us and through us is for His glory. For our purposes we have branded this campaign "Building to Serve Christ and Community". The rationale behind this is that our building process, and ultimately the finished building, is going to be the "launching pad" for our service to Christ and outward into our community. It will be the center of our worship, our fellowship, our community service, and our outreach into that community. The new facility plus the building that has served us so faithfully these past 5 years will allow for God to do immeasurably more in building up His Kingdom in this place and outward to all the world, and again, all to His glory. The final thing that we need to figure out is...when is all of this going to get going, and then be completed? That's starting to come into focus as well. From the fund raising and faith-building campaign side of things we now have firm calendar. The leadership team has been working very hard over the past couple of weeks to nail this down, in conjunction with the architectural and construction side. The timing has been arranged to that we can get a firm handle on how much money we can raise over a three-year period by early December, and then be able to use that information to apply for just the right size construction loan. On the building side, things have been slowed down by Charlotte County, and by long delays in the "supply chain" for building materials. We're okay with that, because we know that God is on control of our timing. This is His project, for His purpose, and for His glory. Our God does everything at just the right time, like we see in Galatians 4:4-5, "*When the fulness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that he might redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*" Jesus Christ was born into the world at just the right time, and as the verse at the top states, at just the right time He died for us, the powerless and ungodly. Because He did this, we receive the adoption as sons and daughters of God by faith. From what I have recently learned it now looks as if our "*just the right time*" will be around or shortly after the first of the year. That's when we should start to see and hear the heavy equipment come in to prepare the sight for the foundation of our new church building. The Foundation of all of this, that of the entire Church, is Jesus Christ our Lord. We are building on Him in order to serve Him, and to be a faithful servant for our community, both this community of faith, TLC, and the community that lies just beyond our doors.