

Campaign Messenger

Creating Connections "The Time Has Come"

January 15, 2012

by Pastor Ken Nelson

The first recorded words of our Lord Jesus according to the gospel of Mark were "*the time has come; the Kingdom of God has come near.*"

I am not announcing something nearly so momentous as the reign of God ("Kingdom" in Mark means "ruling activity of God"), but I am glad to say that the time has come for us to resume our Creating Connections Campaign, and I am confident the time is right. For I truly believe our campaign is an expression of the ruling activity of God in our congregation and community.

God has called 62 pacesetting families and individuals to lay a magnificent foundation for our congregation-wide effort. Their faith has released over \$2,750,000 for us to build upon. The kingdom of God is evident, "is near" when we express

our faith in giving.

I believe our campaign will bring a wonderful new opportunity for us to grow as a congregation and together with our community. Despite the flood, Minot continues to grow, and despite the loss of some of our families to relocation, we see new families and new faces regularly in our worship. The time is now to make our facilities as welcoming and efficient as we can and as capable of hosting the ministries we can and should provide. I believe our campaign will have the simultaneous effect of encouraging and serving our community.

Many homes in our valley have signs which announce "we are coming back!"! Announcing our campaign and the faith our membership has in the rebuilding of Minot will say "we are with you Minot!" We believe in our God and His pro-



vision. We believe we have a contribution to make to our beloved city.

The Kingdom of God is near when his people embrace the future confidently...striving for that which is unseen by human eyes but vivid in the eyes of our heart. For that reason I urge you to join me even as we still feel profoundly the wounds of the past and to agree that "the time is now."

Creating Connections Campaign Kickoff Celebration

Sunday, January 15th

7:00 pm

Parish Center

The Creating Connections Capital Campaign has resumed. To celebrate our success thus far and to kickoff the remainder of the campaign, a Kickoff Celebration is planned. Everyone is invited. We will be viewing the campaign dvd as well as a visual

presentation of the building concept. We will also share the significant facility improvements that have occurred thus far and are a part of the building concept.

If you are ready to make your pledge commitment, we are ready to accept it.

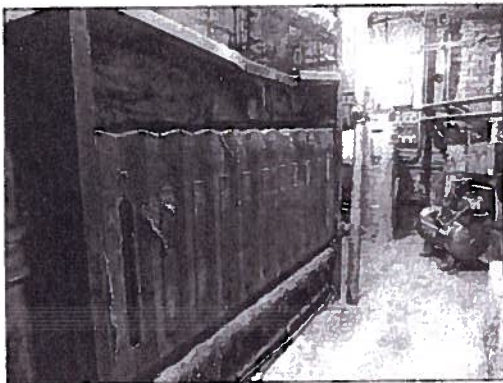
We ask you to remember that this is a 3 year commitment with a 10% remittance requested at the time of pledging.

SEE YOU SUNDAY EVENING

You're invited!

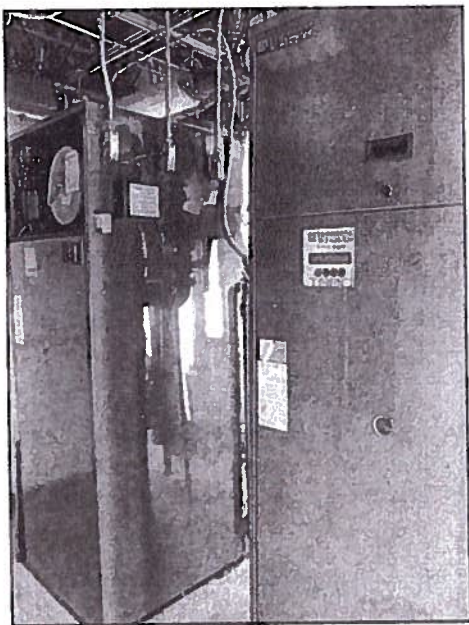
Campaign contributions are making a difference!

A stated goal of the Creating Connections Campaign was a replacement of our old boiler with a new (eventually geo-thermal) heating and cooling system. Pictured below is the pre-flood main boiler located in the basement of church. It was heavily damaged by flood waters.



Pictured below are the two units that have replaced our two old boilers. They have been placed in a room in the tower of Luther Hall, just outside the old youth room. These smaller, extremely efficient units will now heat and cool our Parish Center and main church building, and they can be adapted to geo-thermal to bring heating and cooling to our future Connections Center.

This new system cost \$297,000, and its funding, though temporarily financed through short term borrowing, will eventually be paid out of campaign donations.



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Adelaide and Doris (and Darwin in a cameo)

One of the goals of our campaign was improvements to our existing infrastructure. The flood waters significantly damaged the controls of our elevator, but those controls have now been replaced and repositioned onto the main floor of the church. Cost of this improvement was \$54,000. We know how vital the elevator is to many members. Without it this fall, many could not attend worship.

From an outsider looking in, I have to tell every one of you that I am deeply humbled by what I have observed here at First Lutheran Church. A catastrophic event half the size of what you have endured would have knocked out many communities and churches. Not here! NO, the resiliency you have demonstrated through your faith in Jesus Christ has been amazing. My hope and prayer is that the congregation at First Lutheran Church will continue to rely on God's strength not only to survive but also to thrive, and that God will continue to receive all the glory from your service. May God continue to bless the people of Minot and the parishioners here at First Lutheran!

In Him,
Scott Schoaf, Walsh & Associates

Thoughts by Doris Slaaten

In 1957 I transferred my membership from First Lutheran Church in Havre, Montana, to First Lutheran in Minot.

During my tenure here, various fund raising activities and campaigns have taken place. The Parish Center was completed in 1965, and then it, along with the church and parsonage, was damaged by the 1969 flood. I served as co-chair of the First Things First Campaign and chaired the committee to purchase our organ.

I have never felt as passionate about any of these activities as I have about our Creating Connections Campaign. In my wildest dreams, I did not anticipate the financial success we are having. Nor did I expect the positive faith-filled attitude that our congregation has shown

The strong leadership of all the committees is very evident. The results show that they have taken over the ownership of their task.

Our professional consultant, Scott Schoaf, whose plan is designed to provide spiritual and financial benefits, is on track.

Our first kick off took place in January 2011. In spite of the delay caused by the devastating flood, the results so far are fantastic. It is difficult to put into words the joy I feel as I see anticipation become reality.

I believe that this campaign leads us to grow in Christ. Every member, including children and youth, has the opportunity to become involved.

We must remind ourselves that we are stewards of our resources and that we should use these resources to glorify God.

Gift Opportunities

A number of very special gift opportunities are available to donors of qualifying gift amounts. While a number of building and special sections/selections exist, a number of donors have given in this way.

Here is a list of special gift opportunities that have been received.

Connection Center	\$1,000,000	gifted
Chapel	\$ 500,000	gifted
North (Main) entrance	\$ 100,000	gifted
Elevator	\$ 100,000	gifted
South (Back) entrance	\$ 75,000	gifted
Family Lounge	\$ 50,000	gifted
Coffee Lounge	\$ 50,000	gifted
Sub-divided classroom	\$ 30,000	gifted
Breakout rooms (5)	\$ 20,000	gifted
Coatroom	\$ 20,000	gifted
Office	\$ 20,000	gifted
Handicapped ramps	\$ 10,000	gifted

Keep your eye on the posters in the narthex of the church for information on these opportunities as well as the thermometer showing our progress.



We have reached 61% of our minimum goal of \$4,500,000! And we have only just begun!

Please prayerfully consider your gift!



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®
Let's thrive.

Direct Your 2011 Choice Dollars by March 31, 2012

Choice Dollar program details

Last year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities, and individuals in need. However, each year, thousands of dollars are not designated and thus some organizations miss the opportunity for assistance.

How does this work?

If you have a Thrivent account, you may have Choice Dollars. Eligible Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars based on premiums paid each month, contract values determined each quarter, and Thrivent volunteer leadership. These dollars must be designated each year. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you will already have received a letter in the mail regarding your 2011 Choice Dollars. *Choice Dollars can be directed to First Lutheran Church and then to your Creating Connections pledge. To direct the \$\$ to your pledge, see Barb Solberg at the church.*

Three ways for you designate your Choice Dollars to First Lutheran Church

1. Call 800-847-4836. Be certain to have your account information available.
2. Call Barb Solberg (839-2509) and she'll assist you with an online process. You will need your Thrivent ID to be able to designate in the online environment.
3. If you already have an online Thrivent account, do the following:

First, LOGIN

**Second, Notice Thrivent Choice \$\$\$
 Click on Direct Choice Dollars**

Third, Search for First Lutheran Church, Minot

Fourth, designate First Lutheran Church, Minot

**Click on Direct Now . . .
 Provide Barb Solberg with a printed copy of your \$\$\$ amt.**

Name	Type	
First Lutheran Church - Minot, ND First Lutheran offers services in and for growth and faith; we provide ...	Congregation	Direct Now Set Up Recurring