# **IMPACT** Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

Letter from the Pastor.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Savior's grace and peace to us all in Christ. Look at where we are. We have made commitments for the next three years along with many friends of the congregation. We have voted 56 to 8 (87.5%) to proceed with plans for the construction of the new facility for our congregation to worship and serve our Lord. This was not a spontaneous or hasty decision. How did we get here?



Of course, our congregation has been living out the plans God has for us for 95 years. We also had broached the topic of a new church building over 20 years ago. But recently, how did we get where we are right now?

Over two years ago we held cottage meetings with members of our congregation asking them to consider the future of God's ministry in this place. Pastor Rich Boring guided us through this process. With the help of Pastor Mark Frith, 6 months ago a core leadership team was established to imagine how we might, as a congregation, achieve some of the goals, desires, and dreams expressed from those cottage meetings.

In January, our entire congregation and friends of our congregation were collectively brought into the process of looking at our future and how this future may look for our congregation. We met for meetings called Inforums. These meetings were held to answer questions and brainstorm ideas. We were inspired by the unimaginable possibilities for ministry in our community. The dreams of the possibilities led to a level of commitment from so many people which gave us the resource of over \$500,000 to be used to serve God and our neighbor with what is of greatest importance, salvation.

Our phase now is called IMPACT because it is taking the ideas and dreams and making them a reality for the ministry of God's church in this place. It is entitled IMPACT because with God's word and power, the work done will impact our congregation and community. Additional bible studies are being proposed and offered. More consistent and frequent opportunities for youth to study, have fellowship, and grow in faith. Prayer and worship are central for our future and God's power in our lives. The IMPACT phase is meant to be impactive throughout the future of this congregation.

Let us be strong and courageous as God leads us into His future for us.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Stuckwisch

And He said to them, "Go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation--Mark 16:15



# **TMPACT** Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past

#### **Commitment Meal & Celebration**

Thank you, THANK YOU for all of you who came to Our Savior Lutheran Church Commitment Celebration Dinner held on Sunday night, March 21st. It was a great evening of fun, delicious food, and fellowship. Ricky's of Hanover, Kansas, catered the meal and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as my family did. We served a total of 120 congregation members and guests. The meal was free to all, so thank you to the Easter Breakfast committee who paid for the meal and for the rent of the community building.

I would like to thank my dedicated team who helped plan this commitment celebration. They had so many great decorating ideas and came together the day before to get the decorating and setting up done. Members of my committee included: Samantha Penner, Cindy Stohs, Donnetta Hajek, Joyce Kostal, Mary Ellen Maginnis, and Betty Warnsing. A Big Thank you also goes to Betty, who provided the delicious cakes for our dessert.



A special thank you goes to the LYF members who came and helped serve. They were such great help by helping carry food, serving tea and coffee, greeting people as they came in, playing with the kids at the park after the meal and also staying to clean up at the end. Thank you also to Joyce Kostal and Brooke Engelman who were the adult volunteers of the LYF. It was great to see so many youth there to help and interact with our church members.



Pastor Mark Frith, our LCEF Consultant, joined us at our commitment Meal and Celebration and offered us prayers and inspiration.

At the end of the evening, the Financial Committee, which consisted of Paul Kostal, Lynn Henrichs, and Betty Warnsing, announced that over \$525,000 was committed for our new church building. A huge Thank You also goes to these 3 volunteers who have spent a lot of time calculating the commitments and the donations which are still coming in. Thank you again. Amy Vitosh, Commitment Meal Director



# **MPACT**

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#### Next Steps for Our Church

As we move into the IMPACT phase of our Campaign, you will see a new group of volunteers leading different areas of the Impact Team.

Impact Director: Brad Vitosh Impact Prayer Coordinator: Patty Heble Impact Communications Coordinator: Joyce Kostal Impact Events/Activity Planner: Amy Vitosh Financial Team: Paul Kostal, Betty Warnsing, & Lynn Henrichs

Story Curator: Brittney Kotas New Member Coordinator: Samantha Penner Campaign Director: Lyle Probst Church Representatives: Eric McMurray & Donnetta Hajek.

#### **Design Team Meets**

The Design Team is made up of many members of our congregation who are interested in helping work out the floor plan and design of the new facility. ANYONE can help with this at any time. The Design Team had their first meeting on Sunday, May 2nd @ 5:00 pm. The team had a two hour discussion and started to work out details of the plans of both the Sanctuary Unit and Classroom/Fellowship Unit.

#### The second Design Team will be on Sunday, May 16 @ 5:00 pm

Please watch our website, listen to announcements at church, and watch your email to see the steps and progress the Impact team will be making through the next year. Contact Joyce Kostal if you have any questions or want to help out with anything! (402)239-5810 or joycekostal@yahoo.com

Brittney Kotas, our Story Curator, will be working on compiling stories form our members throughout this process.

### Stay up to date! Ask Questions!

Church Website: oursaviorodellnebraska.com

Pastor Stuckwisch: 402-230-0698 or email: oursaviorodell@diodecom.net



Watch events, meetings, activities on our Facebook Page or YouTube channel



#### **Our Savior Lutheran Church Odell**





## Hope for Our Future. Building on Our Past



Prayer Director: Patty Heble Prayer Team:

م Tony Penner, Steve Kostal, Brittney Kotas, Cindy Stohs, & Mary Wieters

Father God, Each day is filled with Your Promises and Your Grace knows no bounds. More than 95 years ago, You planted seeds of possibility into the hearts of Your people here in Odell that would result in a church community dedicated to serving You In Your perfect timing and providence, You honor us with the task of continuing with You we can have courage to do hard things. We can trust You will provide a with You we can have been faithful in the past. We can trust You will provide a future is in Your rightful hands. Thank you Lord for this opportunity to share Your and feet in that fulfillment here in our community. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

From Our Prayer Team

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged, the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.--Joshua 1:9

IJAqM

NEWSLETTER #3 - SPRING 2021