

“BUILDING FOR ETERNITY” FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the goal and how much will the project cost?

The goal of the project is to expand our Christian education opportunities and thus, in keeping with the theme, to build for eternity. This expansion will involve nine additional classrooms, a new multi-purpose building, and a complete renovation of the current school facility. It also connects the church with the school. The total cost of this project is \$8.9 million.

When will the construction start and when do we hope to have it completed?

New construction will begin in the fall of 2025 and the entire project (with renovation of the current school) will be completed in the winter of 2027.

Do we anticipate taking on debt to complete this project? If so, how will we manage it?

We would like to believe that God will allow us to pay off this entire project in full. However, if we do come up short, the growth of the school will be able to finance any shortfall of up to \$1.9 million.

How will the renovation and addition to the school benefit the church?

The growth of the school will lead to many more baptized members of the church. Additionally, a person will now be able to walk back and forth across our entire campus via the two-story connector between the current school and church buildings.

Why are these projects needed?

To put it plainly, we are at maximum capacity in three classrooms and very near capacity in several others. Sadly, we had to turn some prospective students away, simply because there is not enough room. With over 200 inquiries for this current school year, we realize that we cannot continue to impact the lives of all the families God is bringing to us without it.

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How can I give?

Multi-year commitments can be made by filling out a pledge card. One-time gifts to the campaign can be made online or by check.

Can I give gifts other than cash?

Yes. Gifts of appreciated stocks and bonds, life insurance, and charitable trusts are accepted with gratitude. Please consult your tax professional for more information on the benefits of different methods of giving.

How long will I have to fulfill my commitment?

The campaign will last three years, through December 31, 2027.

Does this campaign include naming opportunities? If so, what are they?

Yes! Naming opportunities exist for the new early childhood center, the new multipurpose building, the new connector, the nine new classrooms, and the new outdoor classroom.

Is giving to this campaign in lieu of my normal giving to St. John's or over and above it?

Gifts to the capital campaign are above and beyond normal giving to St. John's. Regular giving to the church and school is used every day in ministry at the church and school and operational giving will continue to be needed throughout the capital campaign.

How does this campaign impact the Care Connections program?

Care Connections is a vital part of our mission to love and lead all to Jesus and will not be impacted by school expansion and renovation. It will actually serve to connect more hurting people with this indispensable ministry.

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What is our current mortgage?

Our current mortgage is approximately \$2.4 million.

How will we manage a possible debt load if the school does not grow?

This is a good question. But we have to ask ourselves others too: What indicators is God showing us to suggest this path? What resources has He entrusted to us individually and as a congregation? Is God truly inviting us to follow Him and is He 100% behind this pursuit? We believe that God is showing us much data to conclude that the school will grow. We believe that He has entrusted everything to us to complete this project without incurring additional long-term debt. And we believe that He is 100% behind this and is inviting us to follow Him. St. John's, let's do this!

What is the likelihood of being able to double our preschool - 6th grades?

While our future is not certain, God continues to bless St. John's Lutheran School with more and more families that are eager to hear the Gospel. St. John's Lutheran School will continue to grow and double grades from preschool on up. For the upcoming school year (2025-2026), we will have two three-year-old classes and two four-year-old classes. St. John's has a 97% retention rate in kindergarten through 8th grade.

How does MO Scholars/vouchers affect our enrollment?

Since the start of this program three years ago, 18 of our students have qualified for funding that goes directly towards their tuition. As a result, St. John's has received over \$90,000 from the state. We anticipate that our students will continue to benefit from this program with more students qualifying. MO Scholars directly impacts our students from the community making it more affordable for these families to attend St. John's Lutheran School.

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What is our current school enrollment?

Our current enrollment for preschool is 95 students. We have 24 students in the two-year-old class with a waiting list. We have 40 students in the two three-year-old classes. We have 31 students in the four-year-old class.

Our current enrollment in kindergarten through 8th grade is 185 students:

- 20 Kindergarten
- 24 - 1st graders (full)
- 23 - 2nd graders
- 22 - 3rd graders
- 16 - 4th graders
- 23 - 5th graders
- 17 - 6th graders
- 24 - 7th graders (full)
- 16 - 8th graders