



Trinity Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Jeffery L. Gaustad, Lead Pastor
12115 Park Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98444
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April 17, 2015

Dear sisters and brothers of Trinity,

Heritage and Hope is the phrase that speaks of our congregation's incredibly rich ninety-five year history, and the future community God is even now calling into being for Trinity's ministry in the decades ahead. This week marks the official beginning of Trinity's Heritage and Hope appeal, though in reality, the work and planning for this appeal began months ago. Already some things about the appeal have changed. For example, during the listening phase of the appeal conducted some weeks ago, Pastor Chick Lane, our appeal consultant, heard people's love and passion for this congregation, but he also heard that the original appeal goal may be beyond our capacity. Therefore the Congregational Council, acting on Pastor Lane's advice, reset the goal of our five year appeal to \$750,000.

The brochure surrounding this letter explains the goals of this Heritage and Hope appeal and suggests ways you are invited to participate. On the back of this letter are a number of alternative ways of giving for your consideration.

You'll be hearing more about the appeal in worship on Sundays for the next four weeks through ambassadors in the many ministry groups of Trinity, through the Sunday bulletin, the church newsletter, the church website, e-mail, and in conversations throughout the congregation. I encourage conversations. Please give your participation serious and prayerful consideration. The campaign will reach its highpoint on Sunday, May 17th when together in worship we'll present our pledges and celebrate God's graciousness and our partnership with a special event immediately after worship.

Please know my gratitude for all that you are, for all that you already give, and for all you do. I thank God for you, partners in this mission and ministry of Heritage and Hope named Trinity. You are gospel!

Your partner in Christ,

Ways to Give

Income Based Giving

Increased Giving

At the time of a fund appeal, most people give a larger portion of their regular income to their congregation. The congregation, and the cause, are important enough that people reprioritize their spending to give more to the appeal.

Re-Channeling a Present Expenditure

Many families have incurred short-term heavy expenditures for special needs. An example would be when their children attend college. They learn during those years to budget their money so they can cover these expenditures. The same philosophy applies when budgeting money to support their congregation's vision.

Unexpected Cash

A couple unexpectedly received a large inheritance. They decided to give a significant portion of the inheritance to support their congregation's appeal. Other people may give their tax refunds or a year-end bonus.

Income from Investments

Various types of investments distribute interest or dividends. Rather than re-investing these, some people give this income to their congregation's appeal.

Asset Based Giving

Appreciated Assets

A gift of investment assets which have appreciated in value is one of the most common gifting strategies. The asset should, in relative terms, be "substantially appreciated" if the giver wishes to receive tax benefits as a result of the gift.

Stocks and Bonds

Funding charitable giving with appreciated stocks or bonds can be very advantageous to both the donor and the church. The donor will avoid paying capital gains taxes while receiving a full value charitable deduction. The church will receive a very valuable liquid asset. To claim all these benefits, the stocks/bonds must be transferred to the church rather than selling the stocks/bonds and donating the proceeds, which then turns the gift into an ordinary cash gift.

Life Insurance

Some people have accumulated cash in insurance policies which they no longer need. The entire policy may be given to the church as an outright gift. The donor might also name the congregation as the beneficiary on the policy.

It is always wise to consult your financial advisor when making gifts of accumulated assets.

Trinity Lutheran Church is starting to think about a very important birthday. In just five years, the congregation will be 100 years old. Over the past century, Trinity has had a strong and faithful life. Countless faithful people have gone before us. They have made a difference in our community and in our world through their work at Trinity. They have left us a building and a ministry that makes it possible for us to look to the future with great hope.

Thankful for our past, today Trinity is also looking forward to a future that holds opportunities for strong and faithful ministry to continue and even expand. At a special congregational meeting in February, we voted unanimously to proceed with a special fund appeal to raise additional money over the next five years to make that expanded ministry possible.

What Trinity Can Accomplish

To accomplish more, we have a bold vision for our future that involves expanding our ministry with our members, as well as our outreach here in Parkland and beyond. Our goal is to raise \$750,000 in the next five years over and above our regular giving. This will enable Trinity to:

- Add significant benevolence dollars to the amount Trinity gives each year to support ministries beyond our congregation. We will use our own members as well as partnering with other Christian organizations to address the hopes and hurts of people in our neighborhood and around the world.
- Provide permanent financial support for the Youth Director position here at Trinity, enabling us to strengthen and expand how we invite young people into our congregation's ministry and help nurture their growing faith.
- Further demonstrate this commitment to our youth by providing financial support to send youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit this coming summer and the next triennial Youth Gathering in 2018.
- Become better stewards of our staff by providing fair local market wages and benefits.
- Have significant funds available to make much needed building improvements and renovations. Our church building is the center for our mission and ministry. Maintaining it is vital.
- Fully fund all our Designated Funds. In the difficult economic times of recent years, we have borrowed from ourselves to fully fund our congregation's mission and ministry. We will repay these loans and restore our Designated Funds to their full value.

Preparing for Our Anniversary

There are many ways to prepare for a 100th birthday celebration. Putting our congregation on solid financial footing is one of the most important of these. This appeal will do that. When we successfully complete this appeal, Trinity will arrive at its birthday party with a dramatically expanded ministry, a building that is in much better repair, and a vision for the next 100 years that is both exciting and attainable.

We Can Do This

The gift chart on this page shows the path to reaching our goal of \$750,000. Each member and friend of Trinity Lutheran Church is encouraged to spend time in prayer considering how they might be a part of this "Heritage and Hope" appeal. The generous participation of everyone will result in the successful completion of "Heritage and Hope".

Commitment Sunday will be May 17th. On that day, each of us will have the opportunity to respond generously. Together, we can position our congregation for a birthday party that will celebrate all that has occurred in the first 100 years, even as we are ready to step boldly and hopefully into our next century of doing God's work in the world.

Trinity Lutheran Church Parkland, Washington Gift Chart – Gifts Given for Five Years

1 gift of \$10,000 per year
2 gifts of \$8,000 per year
3 gifts of \$6,000 per year

5 gifts of \$4,000 per year (\$333 per month)
6 gifts of \$3,000 per year (\$250 per month)
10 gifts of \$2,000 per year (\$167 per month)

15 gifts of \$100 per month
50 gifts of \$50 per month
Many gifts of less than \$50 per month



Living out our faith in Jesus Christ through joyous service to others.



2015 HERITAGE AND HOPE

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