



Awareness Gatherings

Frequently Asked Questions



(FAQs)

Q> Why build new facilities at Trinity Oaks now when we have a beautiful Sanctuary at Florida Boulevard which is not filled to capacity?

A> The following points address this issue:

- It is our mission goal to begin reaching out to the UN-churched, DE-churched, and the general community around Trinity Oaks with opportunity for Worship, Bible Study, fellowship and child care.
- Baton Rouge Lutheran School (BRLS) has already begun expanding by adding an additional class for each grade beginning with Pre-K and adding one grade every year so that over the next ten years the school will potentially double in size. However, there is simply not enough room at Florida Boulevard unless the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Bible Classes and church staff move to Trinity Oaks.

Q> How much do we need for the proposed construction and renovation?

A> The total amount for both Trinity Oaks and Florida Boulevard locations is \$3.7 million plus contingency.

Q> How does that break down into the major components: infrastructure, worship space, education space, administration, renovations at Florida Blvd?

- A>
- Infrastructure (pond, drives, parking, site sewer, water & electrical - \$830,000 (22%).
 - Worship and Education Space – not broken out separately since they are closely integrated - \$2,070,000 (56%), education space will be only half completed. The back half will have finished floor, walls and ceiling, but otherwise will be open space.
 - Administration – The existing house will be used for office and clerical space. Two small offices will be included in the education space for CDC staff.
 - Renovation to support BRLS at Florida Blvd. - \$800,000 (22%).

Q> What is the expected time line for construction?

- A>
- Trinity Oaks site work and construction – 2016-2019
 - Florida Boulevard, Phase I – 2016-2019 – approximately \$400,000 (50%)
 - Florida Boulevard, Phase II – 2020-2025 – approximately \$400,000 (50%)

Q> Why are we opening a second Child Development Center (CDC) at Trinity Oaks? And how will it relate to the existing TLCDC?

A> We believe that an extension of TLCDC at Trinity Oaks will serve as a ministry outreach and service to the rapidly growing community of young families in the vicinity of Trinity Oaks. The Director of the existing TLCDC will also serve as Director of the Trinity Oaks site.

Q> Can we get grants (corporate, etc.), at least for the school part?

A> The following is the response of our consultant, Pastor John Kieschnick:

“It is very rare when corporations will support the capital campaign of a church. They are occasionally, but very rarely, willing to "match" funds for members who are their employees. The only time I know of them doing so was when the funds were all directed to an Child Development Center that was open to people of all faiths, etc.

So, I would suggest that maybe the school, including the Child Development Center, consider this option, but do so independently of the capital campaign and the church.

This capital campaign is in support of the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. It is a special opportunity for the members and "friends" of Trinity to give a faith-filled, sacrificial special offering to the Lord through this effort.”

Q> What is the size of TLC' s current debt?

A> TLC has no long term debt. We do have a Line of Credit (LOC) with Red River Bank with a ceiling of \$200,000 and a current interest rate of 4.75%. This is used to smooth out our revenues versus expenses, ie, revenue is usually light through the summer, but picks up in the last quarter of the calendar year. Over the last year the LOC has ranged between \$0 and \$184,780, on August 19, 2015 the balance was \$78,191.

Q> How much do we currently have in the Trinity Oaks Fund?

A> The Mission Trinity Oaks fund held \$142,772.01 on July 31, 2015.

Q> How much money is currently in the TLC Endowment Fund?

A> The TLCBR Endowment fund held \$196,147.94 on July 31, 2015

Q> Will the TLC Endowment Fund contribute to this campaign?

A> The TLC Endowment Fund is invested in securities which create annual income which is available for the support of TLC and BRLS at the direction of the Endowment Fund Committee. The principle of the Endowment Fund will not be raided for the CSC.

Q> What is the time line for this Capital Campaign?

A> The Rooted and Reaching Capital Stewardship Campaign is already under way!

Future activities are as follows:

- Awareness Gatherings Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM and Sunday September 20 at 10:20 AM, both in the Sanctuary.
- Special Vision Sunday Services, Sunday, September 27.
- Special Sermons and Bible Studies September 27, October 4, 11 and 18.
- Home Group Gatherings for all members October 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Third newsletter goes out October 3
- Initial Commitment Event October 13, 6:30 PM
- Commitment Celebration October 25, 10:00 AM Don't miss it!!!!!!
- Commitment Followup Sunday November 1
- Commitment Dedication Sunday November 8
- First Fruits Offering Sunday November 15

Q> Why do we need a consultant?

A> Our Vision Team believes, after careful consideration, that we need an experienced consultant for the following reasons:

- Trinity does not have enough experienced staff to carry out all the tasks that a consultant can perform on our behalf.
- We rely on volunteer leaders that do not have the time or specialized knowledge to do what an experienced consultant can do for us.
- Our Pastors need to be focused on ministering to our congregation and community instead of trying to run a capital campaign.

Q> Who is the consultant?

A> Retired Pastor John Kieschnick, former pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Nassau Bay, Texas where he served for thirty three years. Pastor Kieschnick led Gloria Dei through seven capital stewardship campaigns and building projects while the congregation grew from 400 to more than 3300 baptized members. He now serves as Stewardship Consultant with Capital Funding Services (CFS) a ministry service of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) St. Louis, Missouri.

Q> How much will we be paying for the consultant?

A> The CFS fee is \$45,800, based on the congregations annual budget, not the amount raised, and includes all training materials, expert and experienced on-site consultant for all leadership and team

training meetings, his participation in the Home Group Gatherings, preaching on one Sunday, access to the CFS web resource center, assistance from the Ministry Support team in the St. Louis office and on-going consultation and support as needed for the three years of the campaign.

Q> How much do we hope to raise, and how fast?

A> \$2.4 Million, over three years (156 weeks), beginning November 15, 2015.

Q> What makes you think that this is achievable?

A> We have asked LCEF and Pastor Kieschnick to review our finances and current giving and tell us what is achievable. The answer is that while this is three times our annual operating budget, and will be a stretch, it is nevertheless doable if we work hard and "Take it to the LORD in PRAYER".

Q> Assuming we are successful, how much more will we have to borrow?

A> Up to \$1.3 Million plus contingency.

Q> If we can't raise or borrow the full \$3.7 Million plus contingency, what is plan B?

A> We need to regularly remind ourselves that our plans for tomorrow are based upon what we know today. God is in control, and so we let Him lead and He will provide the resources He wants us to have to accomplish the ministry He has entrusted to us. His will be done so that His kingdom might come in even greater ways as we remain "**Rooted and Reaching.**".

Q> Is a high school included in the plan?

A> No, a potential future high school is a part of the overall Master Plan for Trinity Oaks, but it is not a part of this Capital Campaign.

Q> How did our last capital campaign (to buy Trinity Oaks) end as compared to the initial goal?

A> The goal of the Growing in Christ campaign was to raise \$1,200,000. The total of all the pledges at the end of the campaign was \$1,232,195, and the total actually received was \$1,117,202.

Q> What are the biblical principles of giving?

A> The biblical principles of giving are:

- Stewardship principle – Recognize that God already owns all that we possess. Acknowledge that God provides all the resources for our lives, and through us, for life and ministry. Realize that we are ultimately accountable to God for what He has given us.
- Voluntary principle – No one in our church is going to determine, or even suggest, the amount of your gift. St. Paul said, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Sacrificial principle – The word sacrifice can be defined as "to set apart" or "to make

holy". Jesus chose those who gave sacrificially as models of giving. God measures your gift not in comparison to others, but in relation to the resources given to you.

Q> How much should I contribute?

A> What you give is between you and God. All that is asked is that you prayerfully consider what you should contribute.

Realize that we all are just stewards of all that we possess, whether that is money, talents, or time. God owns it all and expects us to use it wisely to the enlargement of His kingdom.

Q> Is everyone expected to give?

A> While we pray that everyone will be moved to contribute, no one is required to do so.

Have Faith – a fantastic adventure in trusting the LORD in all things.

Max Lucado said, "Greed I have often regretted. Generosity NEVER". We know that everyone's gift will not be the same, but we do pray for equal sacrifice. We do not expect you to give up everything you enjoy, but remember, "To whom much is given, much is expected".

Q> Does having a goal help?

A> Yes! Goals help you stretch. Goals provide personal accountability as well as help you to plan financially. Writing a goal down changes your life and increases your personal and spiritual accountability in maintaining your goal.

Q> Can I give toward my commitment weekly, monthly, yearly or one lump sum?

A> Yes. Gifts to fulfill your commitment can be made in any way that is most convenient for you over the three year period beginning November 15.

Q> Can I make non-cash gifts toward my commitment?

A> Absolutely! You may make gifts in-kind, stocks, bonds, antiques, collections, etc.

Q> Is my commitment to this capital campaign separate from the church's general fund?

A> Yes. Your contributions to the capital campaign is meant to be a sacrificial gift over and above your normal contributions to the church general fund thus maintaining the regular operations of the church.

Q> Should my personal financial circumstances change, will I be financially held to my commitment?

A> No! We understand that God's plan for you may take you in a different direction. All that we ask is that you contribute what you **and** God determine is right for you in your current circumstances.

Q> How do I communicate my commitment to the Rooted and Reaching Capital Campaign?

A> A commitment celebration will be held on Sunday, October 25 at which time you will be asked to submit your commitment. And there will be follow up for those who do not commit then. Finally, your first gift should be turned in Sunday November 15, First Fruits Sunday.

Q> What can I do to help?

A> Here are some ways you can help:

- First, pray daily that God will lead and bless our ministry and this campaign.
- Second, get involved. There is much to be done over the next couple of months and many volunteers will make the work easier and more fun.
- Finally, begin your own spiritual journey seeking God's guidance in how you might stretch yourself to meet this enormous challenge.