



Over the next six weeks we will be sharing the details of the *More Than a Roof* Capital Campaign. Through temple talks, videos, bulletin inserts, events, and more, we hope that you will receive this information, listen for how God is calling Ascension Lutheran Church to the future, and prayerfully consider your support gifts to the *More Than a Roof* Campaign, above and beyond your regular stewardship.

The *More Than a Roof* Capital Campaign will culminate with the return of our commitments before Sunday, February 27th.

### **The Next 100 years at Ascension**

We are one Church, one Body, one Spirit, growing together in Christ by proclaiming the Good News and serving all people. This is the mission that we are called to at Ascension.

*More Than a Roof* in the Milwaukee skyline, our congregation began in 1852, when 10 Scandinavian families stepped forward to launch a new church. Little could they foresee their act of faith would someday evolve into a big city church of ethnic diversity that include Latino and Hmong disciples.

Throughout our history, Ascension has been about people. People who share the Love, Hope, and Power of God. As our community and our world have changed, so have we. **Faithfully responding to God's call.**

There is no way that the founders of Ascension could have envisioned everything that this congregation would become. With confidence and in community, the congregation of Ascension has always been *More Than a Roof*.

#### **Now it's our turn.**

We are *More Than a Roof*, but in recent years our roof has become a threat to our future. Decades of snow and rain, heat and cold, have worn our roof causing costly interior damage, limiting usable space, and limiting our welcome to others.

As we look to the future, to be ready for all that God calls us to next, Ascension's leadership has once again stepped boldly forward in faith to address the need for roof repairs in order to protect our place of worship and service.

Now we are launching the *More Than a Roof* Campaign. A bold and faithful step to fund the repairs to our roof so that God's ministry at Ascension might continue for years to come.

We invite you to prayerfully consider the goals of the *More Than a Roof* Campaign. We invite you to take some time to consider the investment needed to secure the hopes, dreams, and vision for the future of Ascension Lutheran Church

***“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.” -1 Corinthians 14:26***



As we prepare for these campaigns, each week we will be sharing excerpts of *Six Steps to Joyful Giving*, written by Dr. Bob Gronlund, that remind us that generosity is a faith practice. Like prayer, study, and worship, it requires our attention.

## Step 1: Recognize Your Need to Give

It is a fundamental spiritual and psychological principle that life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded, or it turns in upon itself and you lose it. *“Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”* (Matthew 16:25) We each have a deep inherent need to give. To give is to live!

But unfortunately, instead of focusing on our own need to give, all too often we center on the need of the church to receive. The church does seek our support, but we must remember it is God’s Church and it will prosper and flourish in God’s own good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of. God’s church and to experience the joy and blessing of generosity supporting and extending its mission.

Just as a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled The Need of the Church. We need to begin concentrating on the side headed My Need to Give for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth.

“We look forward with hope and prayers that Ascension will continue to be a place of safety, outreach and service for years ahead.”

**JACK & DIANE LOPPNOW, INSPIRATION TEAM CO-CHAIRS**