

Christ Lutheran Church Highlands Ranch, CO 2019 - 2022

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future."





Dear CLC family,

From the moment God called a faithful few to start Christ Lutheran Church over 34 years ago, our congregation has faithfully worked to respond to God's call and spread God's word beyond the walls of our church.

We live by our mission of Gathering, Gifting, and Sending Disciples for Jesus Christ. Our desire and ability to spread God's word beyond just our church is one of the things we love most about our congregation.

From countless mission trips with youth and adults, to community outreach at low-income elementary schools and the Urban Peak teen shelter, to the hours of dedication and love Mission Quilters put into their ministry - and to every other outreach ministry not mentioned here, our love for all of God's people is a foundation of who we are as a church.

Everything we do is good - it's great actually - but we know God's plan for CLC is so much more. However, the bonds of this world hold us back. Just like many of us individually, our church has a monthly mortgage payment along with utilities, maintenance, salaries, special programs, supplies, and other routine expenses.

The debt we previously incurred served its purpose by enabling us to grow. However, currently it is one of the primary things holding CLC back. Sadly, there have been times when our mortgage obligation has forced us to think about questions of long-term sustainability and adopt an attitude of **making do** rather than **making disciples**.

The challenges we have worked through have prepared us. Our experienced, practical, and pragmatic approach forms a launch pad to leap into God's next calling. God is calling us to *Visualize our future impact* - on each other and the community around us: locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. Now is not the time for limited thinking.

We confidently believe that we can together achieve our BASE GOAL of \$1.55 million dollars in this capital campaign. To fully eliminate the annual debt service of \$152,772, the capital campaign will need to achieve a minimum goal of \$1.7 million dollars. With GSB's guidance and support, the Council has further established a CHALLENGE GOAL of \$2.0 million dollars.

Visualize the kind of ministry CLC could have when we drastically reduce, if not entirely eliminate, our annual debt service of \$152,772 per year (\$12,731 monthly). **Dream** about what ministry and mission would look like then. **Envision** the ways our ministry and congregation will grow in Highlands Ranch and far beyond Colorado. **Have hope** for what will happen when we go beyond our fears and take risks to share God's love with each other and strangers in exciting new ways. **Visualize** about what lies beyond today. [Can you see it?](#)

We urge you to prayerfully read this prospectus that outlines the hopes, dreams, and vision of the Visualize Campaign. Inside you will learn about the details and how they all come together to paint a **picture** of CLC for the future. We hope you recognize this campaign is very different from any others in the past.

Will you prayerfully consider how you will help bring to reality the vision that we all have for CLC and its ministries by making a generous gift or commitment to this multi-year effort?

For God's glory through all CLC does,

Rev. Eric Allert *Pastor Gail Mundt* *Bill Doyle*

Pastor Eric Allert

Pastor Gail Mundt

Bill Doyle, Campaign Chair

A CALL TO VISUALIZE CLC

The Visualize Campaign is about seeing what God has in store for us and engaging with God on those plans. Though the campaign runs for three years, it is not a series of financial transactions. Rather, it is an investment into God’s activity in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Visualize what God is calling you (collectively, us) to do and then live into that call.

To that end, CLC will seek to raise a minimum of \$1.55 million for God’s plan. Funds raised will be utilized in separate categories. Setting aside the contingency and cost category*, every gift to the campaign that achieves a \$1.55 million BASE GOAL will be used across the categories in the following manner:

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL
Mortgage Reduction	75%	\$1,125,000
Facility and Grounds	15%	\$225,000
Outside Outreach	10%	\$150,000
Campaign Costs*	Capped	\$50,000

**The campaign cost category is a category that will not exceed \$50,000 (3% of the overall budget) and is used solely to pay for the GSB’s fees associated with the campaign along with any miscellaneous start-up and campaign operating costs. Any unused funds will be returned to the other categories on a pro-rata basis.*

Mortgage Reduction - \$1,225,000 of our \$1.55 million Base Goal

Many plans to pay off debt fail because, while desire is present, real motivation is lacking. CLC’s results will be different because a fully funded Visualize Campaign creates boundless possibilities for CLC. The Visualize Campaign asks you to look forward and asks you to believe in a future that is not constrained by a significant monthly mortgage payment. Just as a pair of glasses can help put things in focus, here are some tangible plans that will be achieved when \$10,000 or more are put to direct use on a monthly basis in support of CLC’s mission:

- » More engaging and interactive worship through bigger, bolder music experiences and improved graphics and presentations
- » Proper visitation pastoral care through trained Stephen ministers or part-time visitation pastors providing one-on-one care for individuals in our congregation and community who need support
- » A genuine desire to encourage unconstrained creativity by our staff and our volunteers; a freedom to plan big, execute big, and impact big

In short, we will transition from a “make-do” mentality, to one focused on excellence – a clear path to always doing ministry the right way. Through these types of actions and abilities, CLC can become a congregation of choice within the community, a congregation with a reputation that goes beyond its walls, a congregation that thrives on fellowship and welcomes new believers.

Facility and Grounds - \$225,000 of our \$1.55 million Base Goal

Our building, from the sanctuary to the preschool, office to fellowship hall is a busy place with literally 100’s of visitors every week. While all that busyness is good and makes us who we are, our building needs some attention and care on both the inside and the outside.

CLC’s facilities have been held together over years of wear and tear with the ingenuity and selfless tenacity of the property team. The Visualize Campaign, however, marks a turning point. To paint a picture of what that means, consider the following partial list of things the 15% campaign allotment can accomplish: completion of the roof repairs, replacement of the HVAC system, proper long-term parking lot repairs, enhanced security lighting, modernization of interior lighting to LED, handicap accessible entry, and an upgraded AV system for the sanctuary to create a more inviting and engaging space for us to congregate, engage with one another, and serve our ministries in accordance with God’s greater calling.

But a successful campaign is only the beginning... Visualize a CLC where—thanks to the reduction of debt—postponing new projects is virtually a thing of the past. Things break, technology changes, storms happen, and the expectations of current and future members continue to increase. All those characteristics existed 30+ years ago and will continue to exist forever, but without mortgage debt, CLC can keep pace with those needs.

Outside Outreach - \$150,000 of our \$1.55 million Base Goal

Living our faith extends far beyond CLC's walls. Think about the reminder you see driving out of our parking lot: "You are now entering the mission field." We are called to share both talents and our resources with which we've been blessed.

The Visualize Campaign challenges us not only to be good neighbors but to reach beyond our Highlands Ranch community and make a lasting impact in our extended communities. Visualize what \$150,000 can accomplish in outside outreach, equally divided among local, regional, national and global efforts:

- » **LOCAL** Meaningfully transform the lives of some of the most desperate in our community. Through this category, CLC will contribute to: Love INC, a Littleton non-profit that provides not only emergency gift cards but resources to help people literally rebuild their lives; Urban Peak a homeless teen shelter serving the greater Denver area; and a domestic violence shelter such as SafeHouse Denver (a search is underway to determine if there is a well-run shelter that is closer to the Highlands Ranch/Littleton area). With full funding, \$12,500 will be provided to Love INC, Urban Peak, and the domestic violence shelter.
- » **REGIONAL** Become a giving force in our synod and state. Through this category, CLC will support the the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod and its mission by contributing to: Sky Ranch and Rainbow Trail outdoor camps; the New Beginnings Worship Community at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility; and the Campus Ministry Committee. With full funding, New Beginnings and Campus Ministry will each receive \$12,500, and each camp will receive \$6,250.
- » **NATIONAL** Equip the ELCA to respond not only to disasters but the development of leaders. Through this category, CLC will show its support for the churchwide ELCA by directing its funding to: Lutheran Disaster Response, and the leadership function of the broad ELCA through its Colleges and Universities fund as well as its Seminaries. With full funding, Lutheran Disaster Relief will receive \$18,750, and another \$18,750 will be distributed by the ELCA to colleges, universities, and seminaries.
- » **GLOBAL** Impact and expand the worldwide Lutheran community. Through this category, CLC will further the word and work of Christ throughout the world by donating to ELCA Global Mission to fund missionaries as well as sustainable programs working to solve systemic issues like poverty, hunger, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. With full funding, ELCA Global Mission will receive \$37,500.

Note: More specific details for nearly all of the above outreach partners can be found online.

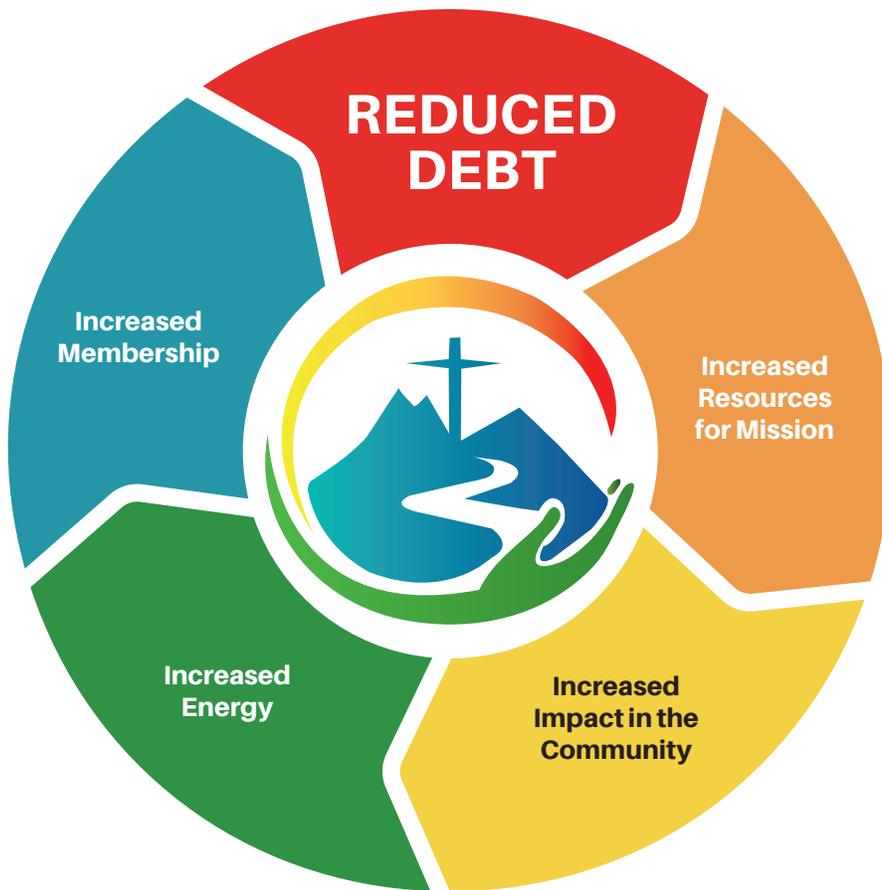
God calls us to action not just when a news headline moves us. The Visualize Campaign will help bring into focus what we can do together to make a profound impact every day. Our self-imposed mandate to extend the Visualize Campaign to include benevolence also sets the stage for future giving by CLC to outreach partners about which the congregation is passionate.

Stewardship - 2020

The Visualize Campaign is a specific target for a specific purpose. However, it only enhances the consistent and routine offering of our first fruits. When complete, the Visualize Campaign maximizes the power of our weekly offering by removing large burdensome categories that hold CLC back from gathering, gifting, and sending more disciples for Christ.

In fact, each year we need to moderately grow the congregation's annual giving through stewardship just to maintain the ministries that attract and maintain you and others to our community of faith. The need is real: salaries require cost of living adjustments, supplies goes up in cost, insurance premiums increase, etc. The Visualize Campaign does not replace our annual stewardship drive for routine giving to the church.





Our fully-funded goals sets in motion a virtuous cycle for a healthy CLC that is perpetually ready to act on God's next step.

VISUALIZE CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Holy God, your Son Jesus established your church as a welcoming and loving home for all who seek you. In celebration for your great and holy plan, you inspired the building of Christ Lutheran Church as a place of prayer, service, and community for all your children in this beautiful creation. Help us to live deeper into that legacy. Strengthen our communion and grow our shared stewardship of your mission here.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the sacrifices and the hard work of previous generations who have helped make CLC what it is today. May we learn from their model of discipleship and continue as a congregation of your believers along the journey of faith that leads and guides your people here.

We offer prayers of hope and wondrous anticipation for your future discoveries and renewed compassionate relationships. May CLC continue Christ's vision of continued church together for ages to come.

Bless the Visualize Campaign with a firm foundation, a growing commitment for service, a rejuvenated spirit for missional purpose, and an increased passion for generosity as we work to advance the life and ministry of Christ's gospel for the world. Continue to work in and through us as your light in the world, that we may further champion your life-giving hope for creation.

As your beloved church, we ask this prayerfully to be revealed in your holy will, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

"My vision for CLC's future is that CLC members will give generously on a regular basis in response to the abundant gifts we receive each day. We are blessed to be a blessing."

NANCY HUBBARD,
Member

"For too long, we have done with too little. We built a place we all love and care about, but CLC can be so much more. It's time we take that step, it's time we focus on a big future and not just the day-to-day."

DENNIS GEREAX,
Visualize Campaign
Honorary Chairman

"I see a CLC that can consistently provide a safe and comfortable physical environment. An environment that is fresh and modern. One that is updated and proactively managed rather than continually stretched on a prayer beyond any practical useful life."

TIM COOK,
Member

COMMITMENT

Please prayerfully consider **your participation** in the Visualize Campaign. The following tables indicate the gifts CLC needs in order to reach our BASE GOAL of \$1,550,000. Giving beyond the goal will allow for additional ministry.

Gifts can be made in lump sum contributions or spread out over the three-year campaign. Additionally, gifts of appreciated stocks, real estate, and other assets may enable you to capture tax savings (see questions and answers below). Also, if you are age 70.5 or older, you may benefit tremendously from giving a gift directly from your IRA thanks to recent tax law changes.

Gifts Needed

# OF GIFTS	VALUE OF GIFT	CUMULATIVE RUNNING TOTAL
1	\$150,000	\$150,000
1	\$100,000	\$250,000
2	\$80,000	\$410,000
3	\$60,000	\$590,000
5	\$40,000	\$790,000
7	\$30,000	\$1,000,000
12	\$15,000	\$1,180,000
15	\$10,000	\$1,330,000
20	\$5,000	\$1,430,000
25	\$2,500	\$1,492,500
35	\$1,000	\$1,527,500
Many	Under \$500	\$1,550,000

Commitment Increments Over Time

AMOUNT PER WEEK	AMOUNT PER MONTH	AMOUNT PER YEAR	3-YEAR AMOUNT
\$961	\$4,166	\$50,000	\$150,000
\$641	\$2,778	\$33,333	\$100,000
\$512	\$2,222	\$26,667	\$80,000
\$384	\$1,667	\$20,000	\$60,000
\$256	\$1,111	\$13,333	\$40,000
\$192	\$833	\$10,000	\$30,000
\$160	\$694	\$8,333	\$25,000
\$128	\$555	\$6,666	\$20,000
\$96	\$416	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$64	\$277	\$3,333	\$10,000
\$32	\$138	\$1,667	\$5,000
\$23	\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$12	\$50	\$600	\$1,800
\$6.50	\$28	\$336	\$1,000
\$3.85	\$17	\$200	\$600

This campaign has been guided by Evan Moilan, CFRE and Paul Marsh, CFRE from Gronlund Sayther Brunkow (GSB). Each brings more than 20 years of experience in fundraising and executive leadership for faith based non-profits. For more than 42 years, GSB has supported Congregations and Organizations across the country as they raised resources for Mission. Collectively the congregations and organizations that have worked with GSB have raised over \$1.5 Billion for the ministry that they provide.

The Christ Lutheran Church Capital Campaign Steering Committee would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the council, staff and volunteers for their help and encouragement with the Capital Campaign. Our theme, "Visualize," is an important guide to energizing the ministry of CLC, both now and for years to come. Thank you for helping us to "Visualize" an exciting future.

"Envisioning a future where CLC is on a strong foundation financially and focused on the excitement of God's ministry and mission excites me. I invite you to join us in visualizing that future together."

BILL DOYLE, Visualize Campaign Chairman

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do my gift payments for the appeal begin?

Unless you prefer a different timetable, the payment period begins November 2019. The Commitment Card has a place for you to indicate how and when you will fulfill your commitment.

How long does the Visualize Campaign last?

The Visualize Campaign will last for three years: November 2019 – November 2022. However, if you feel you can make a larger gift by extending the time, you are welcome to do so. You may also make a one-time gift or make payments for less than three years. Those 70.5 or older often find that giving through an IRA Required Minimum Distribution allows them to make a significant gift when that timing is best for them.

Is it possible just to make gifts to the Appeal without making a specific commitment?

Yes, but written responses, while never legally binding, give us an indication of what we can expect and plan for our mutual ministry, and will ultimately determine our ability to impact the world. Please fill out a Commitment Card indicating how you will respond even if you do not make a commitment. The response from the congregation will be a compelling story to tell our new members and to our community as we prepare for even more impactful ministry.

Do all gifts to the Visualize Campaign have to be cash?

No. Gifts of property, appreciated stock, mutual funds, in-kind gifts needed in property improvements, cash value from insurance policies or policy loan proceeds, Certificates of Deposit (CD's), bonds and annuities are just some of the ways we can give. All these gifts may be subject to restrictions and limitations, so it is wise to consult your financial adviser or accountant.

Note: Contact CLC's treasurer through the church office for gifts other than cash.

Important Tax Consequences! Unless you are trying to capture a capital loss, do not sell the property yourself as you may be subject to capital gains tax rules. CLC or your financial professional can help structure transactions for mutual benefit.

What is the advantage of giving appreciated stocks or property?

You can avoid capital gains taxes and receive a tax deduction for making a charitable gift.

How do I make a gift of appreciated stock?

Your broker can transfer shares from your account to the church.

Note: Contact CLC's treasurer through the church office for account information.

Important Tax Consequences! Do not sell the stock yourself or you may be unable to avoid capital gains tax. The church's broker will sell the stock, and you will receive a deductible credit based on the average market value on the day the stock is transferred.

Will I be asked to give a specific amount?

You will be asked to prayerfully consider an amount based on the Gifts Needed Chart above to reach our goal. If every gift is fulfilled, we will achieve (or exceed) our goal.

Will we have a debt following this campaign?

The combination of mortgage payments made during the course of the Visualize Campaign coupled with achieving our goal will decrease the mortgage to a level that frees up \$10,000 monthly for use in worship, facility, outreach, and other as yet unknown callings from God. Exceeding our goal will eliminate our mortgage debt.

Is this in addition to our regular giving?

Yes, gifts to the Visualize Campaign are designated gifts to the purposes outlined above. Gifts to the Visualize Campaign are in addition to your regular giving to the ongoing ministry of CLC. During the campaign you will have the opportunity to make commitments for both regular giving and the above and beyond gifts that turn our bold vision into a reality.



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