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When will we receive our pledge cards?

Commitment cards will be mailed to your home on May 31. Examples of payment amounts for 2-year pledges are found below.

The typical pledge period is two years, although the commitment card provides a lot of flexibility for how frequently you make payments, and when you make your first payment. There is a place on the commitment card for other-than-cash donations such as assets, stocks, grain, etc.

Commitment cards will be turned in during the morning worship services on June 12.

What would the average gift have to be to raise the \$740,000 goal?

About 175 Trinity families or individuals usually give \$500 or more per year to the regular budget. \$740,000 divided by 175 is \$4,230. Many families or individuals cannot reasonably sacrifice personal expenses or savings by that amount, so many others would need to contribute more than the average. Every gift, large or small, is important and helps share God's vision. "Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."

What if I make a pledge and then discover later that I am unable to fulfill my pledge?

Your commitment card is your best estimate of what you will be able to contribute, but it is not a binding contract. If your circumstances change, such as if you move away or have a major life change, your commitment can be modified. It will work best if everyone does their best to estimate how much they can truly give.



Vision

newsletter

Trinity Reformed Church
May 22, 2011



"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

Examples of payment amounts for 2-year pledges

2-year total	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
50,000	25,000	2,083	481
30,000	15,000	1,250	288
20,000	10,000	833	192
15,000	7,500	625	144
10,000	5,000	417	96
6,000	3,000	250	58
4,000	2,000	167	38
2,400	1,200	100	23
1,200	600	50	12
800	400	33	8
600	300	25	6

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13: 15-16

Dear Trinity family,

In 2008 when we launched Embracing God's Vision, we fervently prayed Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

And God answered. God did immeasurably more than we could have imagined! Thank God for his faithfulness to us these last three years, and thank you for your faithfulness with His gifts!

Now, as we conclude the Embracing God's Vision campaign, we are praying that this faithfulness will continue past May 2011. At a point when we would all enjoy having a little more money available for those personal projects we have put off for the past few years, we will be asked to again let God step in and do His work.

Will we be able to do this? Only if we allow God to be faithful through us, then He will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

Sharing God's Vision Team



Calendar of events

June 5 Combined Worship Service
The entire Trinity family will join together for one morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and discussion about *Sharing God's Vision*.

June 12 Commitment Sunday
As part of our worship services, everyone will be invited to offer their personal response to the *Sharing God's Vision* campaign.

June 19 Celebration Sunday
At our morning worship services, we plan to celebrate the great things God has done through our church, and in answer to our prayers for a successful campaign.

Because Jesus Christ invites us to join him in the harvest (John 4:35-38), Trinity Reformed Church exists to be ...
A contagious community of faith that connects people to Christ, nurtures their spiritual growth, and empowers them for the harvest.

Our History

1953, July

50 people began a trial period of worship services in the Pella Christian Grade School.

1953, October

Trinity Reformed Church is officially organized.

1955, May

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held at 407 Franklin Street.

1956, April

First worship service held in the new sanctuary.

1962, February

East educational wing is completed.

1987

Property west of church is purchased and razed for parking.

1995

Trinity Activity Center building is purchased.

1996

Overall factory south of church is purchased and razed for parking.

1997

West building addition opens, including classrooms, a nursery, and an elevator. Narthex is enlarged and Fellowship Hall is remodeled.

2002

Pastor Chris Piersma is installed as Trinity's fifth pastor.

2003

Trinity came together in refocusing meetings to discuss and develop our church's mission statement.

2004

A long range task force is formed to plan for Trinity's long term facility needs.

2006

Sanctuary stage area is enlarged.

2010

Northeast building addition and renovation project is dedicated.

Q&A Questions and Answers

How is our enlarged and renovated facility being used?

Our enlarged and renovated facilities have provided room for expansion of established ministries, allowed for new ministries to begin, and offers space for organizations and ministries outside of our church to meet. The larger classrooms have helped relieve cramped conditions, and provide additional space on Wednesday nights for Cadets, GEMS, WOW, and adult electives, and on Sunday mornings provide room for children, youth, and adult Discovery Time classes.

The multi-function Discipleship Hall provides classrooms on Wednesday nights for GEMS and WOW and on Sunday mornings for youth and adult Discovery Time classes, and is also used as an area for funeral visitations, large-group workshops, and receptions. The Connection Center is used by GEMS on Wednesday evenings for their large group gathering, and is used as an area to serve walk-in meals during Tulip Time, for conference workshops, and for other groups such as Gideon's for their monthly meal and meeting.

The expanded kitchen is more functional for preparing and serving Tulip Time meals, end of the month meals, Cadet soup suppers, for special GEMS cooking projects, church-wide meals, Vacation Bible school snacks, and TEC (Teens Encounter Christ). The increased facility space has allowed us to start a Wednesday night meal ministry in the Fellowship Hall

for families involved with Wednesday night activities.

What are the dates of the Sharing God's Vision campaign?

Sharing God's Vision lasts 24 months, from June 2011 to May 2013. Commitment Sunday will be June 12, when you will be invited to offer your personal response to the *Sharing God's Vision* Campaign during the morning worship services. Your gifts to the campaign may begin June 12, or any time after that.

How much has been collected from Pella Rolscreen Foundation matching gifts?

\$80,000 has been collected from this source through March 31, 2011. We are eligible to receive up to another \$20,000 if corresponding cash gifts are received from qualifying members before May 2012.

What will happen if we are not able to pay off the loan by the end of the two-year Sharing God's Vision campaign?

The shortfall will become long term debt, and that debt will be paid off over time with payments included in the annual operating budget.

How much did the Building Addition and Renovation Project cost?

The project budget was \$2.32 million, not including interest expense. Actual expenses, not including interest expense, were approximately \$2.30 million.

How much interest expense has there been so far?

\$32,000 in interest has accrued through March 31 on the building project loan at Marion County Bank, and added to the loan principal. The balance of the loan is \$623,000 as of March 31, 2011.

How much cash has been collected from the Embracing God's Vision campaign?

The total cash gifts received through March 31, 2011 is \$1.64 million. We have received gifts from people and local businesses who did not originally pledge to the *Embracing God's Vision* campaign and those are included in the \$1.64 million.

Will we be able to achieve the Sharing God's Vision goal of \$740,000?

If each of us continues giving at a similar rate to what we have during the three-year *Embracing God's Vision* campaign – or give similar one-time gifts – we should be able to reach the *Sharing God's Vision* goal during these next two years – but only because GOD is able to do it, through us!

When should I/we decide how much to give?

Be in prayer and be attentive to the challenge being placed before our congregation. Commitment Sunday will be June 12, so you have some time to decide. If we are all in tune with God's leading, we will be able to reach our goal. Only God can tell you what is appropriate to give.

What is the difference between a "donation decision" and sharing your faith through stewardship?

A donation decision is a financial decision asking, "How much could I/we afford to donate without giving

up too much?" Instead let your commitment be a matter of faith that reflects your sense of God's calling on your life. Let stewardship become a way of sharing your faith as well as God's blessings.

Should I give money to a capital campaign when there are so many other needs in the world?

The money we give to *Sharing God's Vision* should come out of what we

would otherwise spend on ourselves or save – or come out of our excess assets – not reduce what we give to other charities or to the regular Trinity budget. The Building Addition and Renovation Project was a direct response to Trinity's mission to reach out and serve the Pella community, connecting people to Christ.

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What was the scope of the Building Addition and Renovation Project?

Addition on the northeast corner of our property:

- 11,830 square foot addition (two floors matching existing elevations)
- Increased educational space including 16 new classrooms
- Increased flexible meeting space: Discipleship Hall (upper) and Connection Center (lower)
- More than doubling the size of the kitchen, new and larger appliances
- More restrooms, handicapped accessible
- Energy efficient heating and cooling system
- Structural steel and concrete floor construction for longevity
- Exterior appearance complimentary to the existing building
- Compact footprint, leaving open the possibility of other future expansion on our property while still complying with city regulations

Renovation of several areas of our building not updated since they were constructed approximately 50 years ago:

- Complete renovation of the 7,490 square foot east wing, including new windows, carpeting, ceiling, partition wall changes, and energy efficient heating/cooling system
- Renovation of lower level restrooms near kitchen
- Replaced windows in the narthex and in the classrooms below the narthex
- Improved staff offices, including updated furnishings
- Improved the sanctuary sound system
- Provided more workspace for Cadet shop projects
- Provided larger and devoted space for youth meetings and activities *
- Replaced the primary heating/cooling system in the sanctuary
- Complete asbestos removal in all renovated areas
- Numerous other repairs and improvements

* There is enough room now in the main church building so that most Cadet activities can be held there. This allowed the building formerly known as the Trinity Activity Center to be dedicated to youth group activities, giving those activities much needed additional space.