

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God, you have blessed us abundantly. In your divine mercy you have given us a mission and a place in which to share your love. You have graced us with a multitude of talents and abilities to use in expressing your word here and in the greater world. All we have is a gift from you. Inspire us to be generous in the ways we use your gifts to support and prosper the ministry we do here at St. John's. Open our hearts and minds to the possibilities we have before us to be your people actively sharing your love for the sake of the world. Give each of us a sense of commitment to the life and ministry of our congregation and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we feel strengthened by you to give abundantly from what you have given us so that your love is made known through us. We pray all of this in the name of the one who so generously shared your life with us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



HONORING THE PAST
Building the future

St. John's Lutheran Church
106 West Main St
Ringtown, PA 17967



HONORING THE PAST
Building the future

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Capital Campaign**

StJohnsCampaign.org



Dear Members and Friends,

For many decades our building here at St. John's Lutheran Church has served as a center not only for our members' spiritual and fellowship lives, but also as a center for our community's life. So many vital events have taken place here, from baptisms, weddings and funerals, to deeply meaningful worship experiences, faith formation, educational ministries, enriching fellowship moments, important community events and deeply held memories of times shared with family and friends. Our building has served us well over these nearly 100 years as a place where God's presence and God's love have been made real for us. It is a place that holds deep meaning for each and every one of us. Like a mighty fortress it has stood as a central place in which we have lived our lives, shared special moments with family and friends and

felt God's amazing grace as very real for us. It is deeply emotional for us as we consider the future of our ministry here and do our best to be faithful to God's call to be the church in this place while at the same time realizing that facilities matter in terms of how we are able to shape and carry out the ministries we believe best share God's love and God's word in our community. As beautiful and meaningful as our current building is, we have determined at a congregational meeting held on January 26 of this year that in order to be equipped better to fulfill the mission to which we have been called a new church facility will provide us with a better chance to enrich the spiritual and fellowship lives of our members and serve as a center for our community's greater life.

As pastor here for nearly 25 years I have grown deeply attached to our current building and will grieve its loss. However, as pastor here for nearly 25 years I have come to understand that as the world around us changes and the needs of communities change, even though the Gospel message of life through Christ remains the same, we provide ourselves a much better opportunity to share relevant ministry far into the future in a facility that meets current and future congregational and community needs. A building which is totally accessible, technologically up-to-date, efficient in both winter and summer and designed around our congregation's ministry needs and community life will become a platform from which we can share God's good news in ever more unique and exciting ways.

In order to continue the process leading to the construction of a new building we have given our building committee permission to contact construction firms and architects to put a final plan together for congregational approval. Along with that we have contracted the services of Kirby Smith Associates to aid us in running a capital campaign to raise money for a new church structure. "Honoring the past . . . Building the future" has been chosen as the theme for our Capital Campaign and building program. We honor our past and remember all who have gone before us at St. John's and who did whatever was necessary to ensure that God's word is proclaimed and God's love is shared as fully as possible in this place. We realize also that our ancestors in the faith looked to the future and worked to provide those who come with a rich heritage and the tools to make ministry thrive. As pastor, I ask you to consider prayerfully how you can be a part of our new venture and how you can use your time, talents and treasure to make our vision of our future ministry happen.

With Thanksgiving for your service,

Pastor Jay
Rev. Joseph A. Serafin