

Follow Your Heart!



Acts 2:43-47

*Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. All who believed had everything in common; they sold their possessions and goods, and distributed the proceeds to any who had need. Day by day, as they spent much time in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food **with glad and generous hearts**, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

We are privileged to serve as members of the Follow Your Heart Appeal Team. We have been blessed in our personal lives with many gifts from God and are passionate about helping those in need. We feel it is our calling to share the gifts bestowed upon us through the blessings from God.

In addition, the positive pride we feel in being members of First Lutheran Church prompts us to keep the church in optimal condition, add improvements that help our congregation thrive and attract potential new members. It is also an honor to make financial gifts that will help others in our community, regionally and internationally.

We truly hope that you will consider joining us in supporting the Follow Your Heart Appeal. Your generosity will help to improve the lives of others!

The Follow Your Heart Appeal Team

FLC's Leaders Give & Promise Over \$103,000 to the Appeal!

FLC's Church Council, Lay Leaders and Pastors have already given \$25,030 in initial gifts and made 3 Year Promises of \$78,040 to the Follow Your Heart appeal. They are leading by example!



Thank You Church Council, Lay Leaders and Pastors!



Plus, There are Matching Funds for Appeal Gifts!

Did you know that an additional amount exceeding \$62,000 is available to match Follow Your Heart Appeal gifts? Assuming the congregation's response is strong, funds will be released from the following sources:

- ✚ Two Anonymous Donors
- ✚ FLC's First Lutheran Fund
- ✚ FLC's Endowment Fund
- ✚ Earnings from a Donor Advised Fund

That means our initial gifts *and* 3 year promises can make a **BIGGER DIFFERENCE** for others and our church!

How Can You Bless Others?

Five great missions are available for you to support with your gifts. They include:



Love Stoughton Area is a new and exciting mission for FLC. The church will solicit projects from area non-profit organizations for the congregation to complete as weather permits. Such projects might include building wheelchair ramps, doing landscaping, painting, minor construction repairs, deep cleaning, installing gardens, etc. FLC members are invited to donate their time and talents to complete these projects! People with all kinds of skill sets will be needed. **Please check the box on the promise card to indicate your interest in helping.**



Medical Missionaries Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson serve the poorest of poor in Arusha, Tanzania. They built a new Plaster House for patients recovering from surgery and created a new nursing school to train young medical professionals to join their hospital staff. For only \$500, they can provide surgeries to correct club feet, cleft palates and a host of other problems that would not be possible without our appeal gifts. The ambulance donated by FLC in 2015 is used regularly to transport the poor to medical facilities who otherwise would suffer or even die in their homes.



START ~ Stoughton Area Resource Team assists Stoughton area residents in need through social worker Cindy Thompson. Appeal gifts will be used to offer counseling, provide care and meet immediate needs of those in our community who are struggling. As a result, they will also help people “get back on their feet” so that they can provide for themselves and gain more self respect in the process.



Lutheran World Relief can help anyone, practically anywhere in the world! Whether it is mudslides in Peru, a drought in Africa, an earthquake in Indonesia or refugees from a civil war in the Middle East, LWR is there to provide aid and support to those who are suffering. Appeal gifts can reach out and comfort those who have been victimized and give them hope for a brighter future in tangible ways.



Lutherdale Bible Camp inspires youth & adults to learn about Jesus in the great outdoors. The camp would like to build a new retreat center for adults. Matching funds have already been given for this project. Since major fund raising is an ongoing process, it is likely that all of FLC's appeal gifts will be matched dollar for dollar. That means people of all ages can experience Lutherdale's hospitality while growing in their faith.



How Can You Meet FLC Needs?

Eight specific capital needs were identified by the Church Council. They include...

Tuck Pointing the Church Exterior Our beautiful lannon stone church needs major maintenance. As you can see from the pictures, some of the mortar has worn away between the joints in the stones. Technicians will remove debris and loose mortar, blow out the dust and install new mortar.



The stones (see above) start to deteriorate and crack if this maintenance is delayed. So, the tuck pointing needs to be completed as soon as possible.

Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Upgrade In 2016, FLC hired an energy contractor to improve the church's lighting by installing LED bulbs and ballasts in various locations throughout the church. The goals were to maintain good lighting in the building, reduce energy costs in the long term and reduce the church's carbon footprint by decreasing energy needs. The second and final phase of this work would be completed in 2017.

Flooring The **tile in the Choir Room** was originally installed in 1948 during the construction of the education wing. It is worn, gouged and past its expected life. Tiling over the original flooring would improve the room's appearance and acoustics.



In addition, by 2020, the **blue speckled carpet** in the hallways and offices will likely be near the end of its expected life and need to be replaced.

Major Facility Upgrades include purchasing 1) a new Confirmation Class Display Rack, 2) eight round tables and a table cart for the Fellowship Hall, and 3) digital tablets to replace old computers. Updates are also needed for the Kitchen Hallway Closet, Sanctuary Assisted Hearing System, the Fireside Room sink and electrical outlets, and several pipe organ components.

Parsonage HVAC FLC owns the house that is provided for Pastor Sara and her family. The old, inefficient furnace is past its expected life and not functioning very well. A new one is needed.



Sample of Potential Sign

Outdoor Sign Upgrade

FLC wants to upgrade its outdoor sign to attract more people to worship with us. It would include a four color display that communicates more effectively to the public and could be updated from inside the church via a cable in the winter.

**Page 4 offers
examples of how
you can
designate your
Initial Gifts
and/or
3 Year Promises!**

Follow Your Heart Appeal Examples - Initial Gifts

Joe/Jan Lutheran want to give \$500 as an initial gift. First, they write the number 500 on their promise card as the total initial gift they would like to make. Second, they...

Example #1

Make a Gift Only For Mission

They write \$500 for **Mission**.

To support Love Stoughton Area, nothing else needs to be done.

Otherwise, they will check off one box for:

- ✚ Medical Missionaries,
- ✚ START,
- ✚ Lutheran World Relief, or
- ✚ Lutherdale Bible Camp

Example #2

Make a Gift Only For FLC Needs

They write \$500 for **FLC Needs**.

To support FLC's Tuck Pointing, nothing else needs to be done.

Otherwise, they will check off one box for:

- ✚ Major Facilities Upgrades, including Parsonage HVAC
- ✚ Minor Facilities Upgrades including Organ Improvements
- ✚ Outdoor Sign

Example #3

Make a Gift For Both Mission and FLC Needs

They write \$300 for **Mission** and \$200 for **FLC Needs**.

To support Love Stoughton Area and FLC Tuck Pointing, nothing else needs to be done.

Otherwise, they will check off one box for the other Mission options and/or one box for the FLC Needs options.

3 Year Promises

The Lutherans choose to give \$1 a day/\$30 per month. They check off that box to begin Step 2.

Now it is time to designate the percentage of their gifts they would like to help others.

(They understand that their 3 Year Promise Gifts will be split evenly between Missions and FLC Needs until all FLC Needs are met.)

Follow Your Heart Appeal Examples - 3 Year Promises

Joe/Jan Lutheran want to designate their gifts to help others. How could they choose to do this?

Example #1

Support One Of The Recipients

	<u>%</u>
Love Stoughton Area	0%
Medical Missionaries	0%
START	0%
Lutheran World Relief	100%
Lutherdale Bible Camp	<u>0%</u>
Total	100%

Example #2

Support Some Of The Recipients

	<u>%</u>
Love Stoughton Area	40%
Medical Missionaries	35%
START	0%
Lutheran World Relief	0%
Lutherdale Bible Camp	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Example #3

Support All Of The Recipients

	<u>%</u>
Love Stoughton Area	20%
Medical Missionaries	20%
START	20%
Lutheran World Relief	20%
Lutherdale Bible Camp	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Follow Your Heart Sunday is June 4!

Please complete the enclosed promise card & put it in the enclosed envelope along with a check if you are making an Initial Gift. Bring the envelope to either service on Sunday, June 4!

If you are unable to attend worship on June 4, please drop off your envelope at the church office or mail it by that date. **THANK YOU!**

All appeal gifts will be recognized on a display in the upper atrium next to the elevator!

