



*Nurturing a Living Faith
with Open Hearts and Serving Hands*

September 14, 2023

Greetings in Christ's name!

Below are the words to the first verse of the hymn, *"Baptized and Set Free"*:

We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.

This hymn serves as the centering point for our Fall Stewardship Campaign – entitled "The Freedom Campaign". Martin Luther wrote that we have been freed from sin, death and evil. We no longer have anything to fear. Instead we can change our focus to worship and serving our neighbor.

Our Fall Stewardship Campaign is a bit different this year because we will simultaneously run both the Annual Stewardship Campaign where we ask all members to make a "Giving Intent" for the coming year; along with "Phase Two" of our Capital Campaign to provide funding to install fire detection and alarm equipment throughout our whole building. Enclosed in this mailing are both a "Giving Intent" card and a "Phase Two Capital Campaign" pledge form.

By filling out your "Giving Intent" card you are helping the council make decisions about funding ministry and mission for next year. Your generosity means we can continue to plan creative, Christ centered worship; that we can deepen our work to welcome new friends and neighbors; that Church School and Confirmation can flourish. Your willingness to share a portion of the finances God has first given you is a blessing which blesses others.

When it comes to the "Capital Campaign Phase Two" Pledge Sheet – your commitment is a sign of deep care for the safety of all who use our building. This is a huge facility, often young and old alike are spread from one end of it to another. An alarm system can give us peace of mind that if a fire were to break out people will be able to get to safety. We have also been given a Challenge Pledge of \$50,000 – so for every cash gift before October 31st of this year will be matched dollar for dollar. Please consider a pledge – which includes an up front gift so we can meet this \$50,000 matching gift.

The "Freedom Campaign" gives each of us a chance to make a difference in the lives of others while at the same time praising God for the way we've been blessed. We hope you will join us. Our official kick off will be Sunday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 4th. Our Celebration Days will be Sunday, October 15th and Wednesday, October 25th.

Blessings in Christ's name!

Pastor Mark Narum