

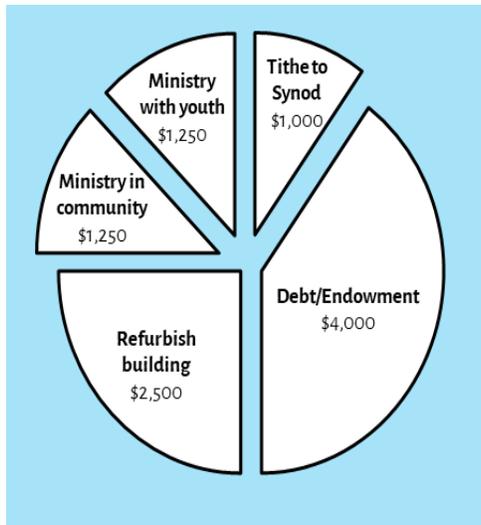
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The first year of the three-year “Listen, God is Calling” capital campaign is nearly complete!

As of printing, St. Paul has received over \$75,000 from Nov. 2017-Sept. 2018 givers toward the campaign. We are ahead of schedule and on track to raise \$200,000 or more for God’s work.

The first \$9,500 was invested in consulting services through the ELCA’s Mission Investment Fund. Every \$10,000 after has been or will be invested this way:

<i>Tithe to Synod</i>	\$1,000
<i>Repay debt/endowment</i>	\$4,000
<i>Refurbish building</i>	\$2,500
<i>Ministry in community</i>	\$1,250
<i>Ministry with youth</i>	\$1,250



Your generosity empowers St. Paul to pursue these priorities. Other than repaying the cost of the new roof, we’ve invested the most in the two new 600-pound pumps in the basement. We would rather have spent that \$16,000 on other things—like refurbishing bathrooms or replacing sanctuary lighting. But what a blessing we already had the money, because you in faith already gave it. God was calling! God just had slightly different plans than we did. The bathrooms and lighting will wait until we have the necessary funds in hand—which thanks to you, we will.

On Sunday, November 11, Rev. Erika Uthe—Director for Evangelical Mission for the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—will be in worship. She will preach and tell us about the synod’s own “Forward Together” capital campaign. Our tithe to the synod is going toward that campaign, which has repaid the synod’s own mortgage and invested in developing leaders and starting new congregations. That Sunday, we’ll also present Pastor Erika with a check for another \$3,000 or \$4,000. How cool is that! Again, thanks to you.

Toward St. Paul’s ministries in the community and with youth, you’ve invested \$7,500 each. (Which doesn’t even include the \$11,000 you raised for the Houston Youth Gathering!) These moneys have not yet been disbursed. It’s fun to imagine how we could use—by the end of this three-year campaign—over \$20,000 for each ministry. God has a plan for this money too. To bless Clinton and this neighborhood. To bless young people.

	Received	Disbursed	Remaining
<i>Tithe to Synod</i>	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
<i>Repay debt/endowment</i>	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0
<i>Refurbish building</i>	\$15,000	\$15,650.52	\$-650.52
<i>Ministry in community</i>	\$7,500		\$7,500
<i>Ministry with youth</i>	\$7,500		\$7,500
<b>Total (less MIF)</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$43,651</b>	<b>\$16,349</b>

It’s not too late to make a new commitment to giving toward the “Listen, God is Calling” campaign. Our original goal was \$300,000, and there’s still time to make new progress toward that larger goal. It’s also not too late to increase your original commitment, or to make a one-time extra gift in addition.

St. Paul people committed everywhere from \$1 to \$15,000 over the three years. Jesus himself celebrated the two pennies the widow placed in the temple offering, more than the large gifts of wealthier people. So never look down on yourself for even a small gift. God knows what to do with small things given with great love!

You may remember that Sara and I committed \$10,000 toward “Listen, God is Calling.” Since then, we found mold in our basement at home. We spent almost that much fixing the problem! This was not part of our original calculation of what we could give. But God is generous and with prayer, we are holding firm to our original commitment. We believe in St. Paul and in the goals of this campaign. We are moved by your generosity to keep trusting God.

Thank you for trusting God and giving more toward this campaign—over and above your regular giving. St. Paul’s general offering has only increased over what was estimated, even as you give generously to “Listen, God is Calling.” What greater sign do we need to know that this is of God.

Thanks again