



Dear Epiphany Family and Friends,

I am excited that, as the people of the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, we have come together to launch our **Renew & Rejoice Capital Campaign**. We have two areas of focus for the projects for this campaign. First, our organ, and second, our beloved church home.

When I think about the organ projects, I acknowledge the need for this instrument to be fully functioning and safe. But my excitement for replacing the organ builds when I think about the opportunities to grow our music ministry. We love our music, church family! It is vital to who we are as people of God. This change will be a critical steppingstone for us to continue being a place where worship and music thrive. I don't know precisely what that will look like, but having a new organ means we can think about new ways to work with area colleges and universities, train future church musicians, and ensure a solid instrument for years to come.

When I consider the upgrades planned for our facility, I think about how much ministry happens in this place. A lot of congregations use their buildings on Sunday mornings. We use our building 6-7 days a week. Every day, ministry happens here at Epiphany. The buzz of activity includes children learning, singing, and playing. Adults grow and learn and build community. This shows that our faith is active and vibrant, and we need the space for that to happen. The idea of a renewed space shows me we are committed to continuing down this path of being a vibrant, active, busy community doing the work of Christ. We are alive.

I want us to be a church that continues to think about how our facilities align with our purpose. God calls us to grow our relationship with God, connect with each other, and serve the world.

Thank you for being a part of this ministry we share. Together, we will **Renew & Rejoice** with music and the activity of being God's disciples here at the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany.

In Christ,

REV. RUSSELL PEEK

Week 1



As we prepare for the campaign, each week we will be sharing excerpts of *Six Steps to Joyful Giving*, written by Dr. Bob Gronlund, that remind us that generosity is a faith practice. Like prayer, study, and worship, it requires our attention.

Step 1: Recognize Your Need to Give

It is a fundamental, spiritual, and psychological principle that the gifts of life are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded, or it turns in upon itself and you lose it. As Jesus tells us, *“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”* (Matthew 16:25) We each have a deep, inherent need to give. To give is to live!

But unfortunately, instead of focusing on our own need to give, all too often we center on the need of the church to receive. The church does indeed need our support, but we must remember this is God’s Church, and it will prosper and flourish in God’s good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of: experiencing the joy and blessing of generosity through supporting and extending the mission of God’s Church.

Just like a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side of ‘The Need of the Church.’ Part of our progress as disciples is to also focus on the side of ‘My Need to Give,’ because giving is integral to growing our spiritual lives.