



CASTING THE NET

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SUPPORTERS OF THE MISSION POSSIBLE
CAMPAIGN FOR LUTHER SPRINGS AND LUTHEROCK

"...put out into the deep water and let down the nets for a catch." LUKE 5:4

View the campaign video at www.MissionPossibleVideo.com



April 2017

ATONEMENT, ORLANDO'S PLEDGE NOW A GIFT!

A legacy gift of \$200,347.25 from the recent sale of the property of Atonement Lutheran Church, Orlando was delivered to The Mission Possible Campaign March 27, 2017. The congregation concluded its ministry on October 25, 2015 and prepared to sell its property. Members at that time chose Luther Springs among their legacy gifts to empower new ministries as Atonement's ended. Atonement committed \$200,000 from the proceeds of the sale of their property to name the new chapel to be constructed at Luther Springs in the Challenge Phase of the Mission Possible Campaign. Atonement's property was purchased in March by St. Peter the Apostle Coptic Orthodox Church which began worship immediately.



Six remaining members of Atonement's Council at the time of closing met Monday, March 27 in Orlando to distribute their legacy gifts made possible by the sale of Atonement's property. Pastor Jan Setzler, Mission Possible Campaign Director, was present to receive the legacy gift. The group was reflective. Barbara Shaner recalled, "Atonement was the epitome of what the ELCA said a congregation should be. We had an amazing diversity — people of all ages, races, colors, orientations, backgrounds. Our strength was sometimes our struggle too," Council President Bill Smith agreed. "At some time in this process it became our job as the board," he said, "to allow good to come out of this unfortunate situation and to provide a foundation for the future and a path forward." All six heartily agreed!



Atonement Council from left: Bill Smith, Pastor Jefferson Cox, Barbara Shaner, Rachel Kronmann, Lee Burns, and Shirley Schepler

Barbara Shaner marveled: "Every time in this long process of trying to sell the property we got close to running out of money to pay the utilities, taxes, etc., something happened to keep us going. A gift would appear that we didn't expect. A bequest came that we had no idea was in the works. Someone wanted to purchase the organ (and the Coptic church was glad it was gone!). God sustained us. God kept us going. This is God's time." "This is a great testimony to the abundance of God's Spirit," Pastor Cox said. "What may seem a loss to some will result in dynamic new ministry for others."

Atonement's actual gift toward their \$200,000 pledge was \$200,347.25. This included some memorial giving by members after the legacy decision was made. This naming gift from Atonement, they hope, will inspire others to give to complete the total project cost of \$350,000. This will be one of the final construction projects at Luther Springs in the Challenge Phase of the Mission Possible Campaign.

A GOD-BLESSED EFFORT; A GLORIOUS SURPRISE; WAGNER GATEWAY ANNOUNCED!

A brief unexpected video near the end of the first Palm Sunday worship service at Holy Spirit, Juno Beach caught everyone but the planners by surprise. It was repeated in the other two services of the day. By video taken at the entrance to Lutherock, near Newland, NC, NovusWay Ex. Dir., Keith Johnson spoke directly to Pr. Frank and Martina Wagner. "I am pleased to tell you that there will soon be a new sign by the entrance where we stand that will welcome campers and guests to Lutherock. The sign will proudly dedicate this beautiful part of God's creation in honor of Pr. Frank and Martina Wagner. I can't think of two people who deserve this honor more."



Pastor Frank and Martina Wagner



All unknown to Pr. Frank and Martina, it was a labor of love by family members in this country and abroad, friends, parishioners present and past, determined to add to the \$30,000 pledged to the Mission Possible Campaign by the Holy Spirit council. From these individual gifts, added to the congregation's \$30,000 pledge, came a total that exceeded the \$125,000 needed to name the entrance to Lutherock. The purchase of the property comprising the entrance to Lutherock, approximately 55 acres, included in Phase 1 of the Mission Possible campaign, was purchased at a cost of \$250,000. The gift of \$125,000, half the total cost, names the entrance to honor Martina and Pr. Frank Wagner. Gifts to complete the total purchase cost are welcome in this final year of the Mission Possible campaign.

WITH GOD THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A 'CHANCE ENCOUNTER'!

Paul Goodman and Sue Mendenhall agree! Their encounter occurred in January in Kentucky. Paul's Mission Possible gift soon followed. Paul says. "When I was in Kentucky for the annual Youth Directors Extravaganza, I had supper with another former Floridian, Kenny Champagne, and Sue Mendenhall. Over dinner I asked Sue why no one had ever asked me to donate money... she lit up and told me about Mission Possible.



Paul Goodman, Heidi, and Emma

I have been thinking about giving back to Luther Springs for a long time. I worked the summers of 2000-2004 for LOMF and spent three summers on site at Luther Springs as the program coordinator. A few years ago I was at the ELCA National Youth Gathering and a young adult I didn't recognize ran up to me. He knew me. I had been his camp counselor 10 years prior! He was now a young pastor with his own youth group. As I think about the LOMF alumni from the early 2000's, many of us landed in ministry. One could say that we would have landed there despite our summers at camp, but spending 9 weeks in an intentional community of young adults assembled to do God's work with children and youth has great power. Many of us used those summers to discern a larger call to full time church service. And 10 years later I have camp friends who are just now hearing God's call to full time service in the Church. My wife and I met after our camp years but we were both camp counselors in the early 2000's. I worked at Luther Springs in Florida; Heidi worked at Lutheridge.

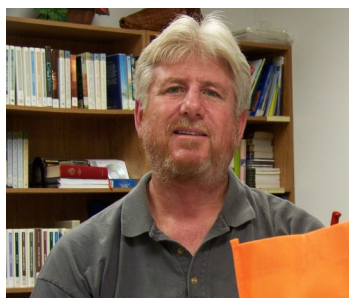
There is power in church camp! My hope is that this next generation of youth, many who have in some ways lost a sense of community, can rediscover that in some experience of outdoor ministry. When you unplug for a week...spend intentional time in a Christian community playing, learning, swimming, worshipping and goofing off together God's power changes people. I decided to make a pledge of \$500 to the Mission Possible campaign because of this power. And I encourage my fellow alumni, many of whom have children of their own, to consider a similar gift. \$500 constitutes roughly \$14 a month for 3 years...less than you might spend on a couple cups of coffee...and yet if all of us made such a donation, the fundraising goal for this campaign will be met and exceeded."

(As Martin Luther famously said, "This is most certainly true.")

MISSION POSSIBLE campaign gifts and pledges as of April 1, 2017, total **\$1.85 million**. Our Phase 1 goal is \$2.235 million; our Challenge Goal is \$3 million. **RECEIVED FROM** Individuals, couples, families and congregations. 74 congregations have hosted a Mission Possible Council presentation; 1 congregation has a Council presentation upcoming; 26 congregations have completed a Mission Possible campaign; 16 congregations have a campaign scheduled.



Todd Anderson, Christ Our Redeemer, Temple Terrace, trained Feb. 6



Mike Chelette, St. Timothy, Melbourne, trained Feb. 7

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER TRAINING CONTINUES AS MORE CONGREGATIONS PREPARE FOR CAMPAIGNS



Denah Mattson, Jack Mattson, Wally Oestreich with Pastor Carol Solovitz, Grace, Lakeland, trained Feb. 20



Brianna Horsch, Our Saviour, Ocala, trained Feb. 21

MISSION POSSIBLE CAMPAIGNS RECENTLY COMPLETED AND THE GIFTS ARE STILL COMING!

Our Savior, Vero Beach (currently at \$35,000)
Gethsemane, Gainesville (currently at \$27,024.41)
Good Shepherd, Seminole (currently at \$6,166)
St. Timothy, Melbourne (currently at \$41,475)
Lutheran Church of the Cross, St. Petersburg (currently at \$ 31,650)

SIX CONGREGATIONS HAVE MAY CAMPAIGNS

Trinity, Jacksonville
Our Saviour, Ocala
Prince of Peace, Largo
Christ Our Redeemer, Temple Terrace
Lamb of God, Haines City
Grace, Lakeland

*View the Mission Possible video
anytime, anywhere at
www.missionpossiblevideo.com*



Securing the Future of
Luther Springs and Lutherock

For more information about Mission Possible email us at missionpossible@novusway.org or call 813-493-5515