

My Friends and Colleagues:

By the grace of God, Nativity is about to embark on a wondrous journey of faith. It is a journey to respond to a long-standing vision for our ministry-- that of providing sufficient space for our life of worship. Worship is the most important component of our lives as Christian people. It is the reason for our existence. A study of Nativity's history revealed to me that the desire for more space for worship goes back at least three decades to the mid 70s. Thanks to God, we now have the opportunity to address this matter with strength and faithful commitment. All of the signs God has provided indicate the wisdom of fulfilling this long-standing vision for a new sanctuary. Those signs include continued growth on all levels of our church life and ministries. The Lord has been richly blessing our humble and sincere efforts, and now the time has come for us to respond accordingly.

Growing together sanctuary campaign first and foremost will be a wondrous time of seeking to grow in our faith response to our bountiful Lord beginning this fall for the next three years. We hope to achieve the building of our new sanctuary, and as much of the revised building plan as possible, to be used for Christmas Eve worship of 2010. All the necessary information regarding this exciting opportunity is contained in this envelope. Please study it carefully and prayerfully. Many years of prayers, and countless hours of planning and effort have gone into this moment. Please, accord this material the favor of serious reflection, and seek the Lord's guidance in the consideration of your response. As you do, see if your mind's eye sees what mine sees. More than a beautiful new structure, I see people-- people of all ages, and many backgrounds-- who gather for worship where families are able to sit together in their church, and not the narthex or apart from one another at special times. I see baptismal services and young families attending worship in comfort and provision for their unique needs. I see our dynamic music ministries able to grow and do even more because they have the necessary space. I see regular and special worship services of incomparable beauty currently unavailable to us. I see people thrilled and energized in their desire to serve the Lord that is unique to the experience of a new church. I see the un-churched seeking to join our fellowship in even greater numbers.

Will Rogers once said, "Make no small plans, for they have no power to stir the soul." The Lord must have inspired these words because God never makes small plans. He didn't when he created the world, and he certainly didn't when he sent his son along with only 12 disciples to change the world. After all of this time there is no reason to believe that God has changed his ways. His plans for his people are always big, grand, and challenging to the hilt. The plans of our ***growing together sanctuary campaign*** are far from small. On the contrary, they are grand, exciting, and thoroughly soul stirring. In addition, and vitally important, our plans address our critical needs that have limited our abilities and effectiveness for decades. We submit them to you in the belief that you will want to be a part of this wondrous time of growth that rarely happens for many congregations, most especially those that do not address such critical space needs in a more timely fashion.

How marvelously blessed we are with the manifold gifts of God that we are able to take this wonderful faith journey. For me this is a blessing beyond compare, that I have the high honor and privilege of being your partner in this grand venture. May we all offer our prayers, praise, and thank the Lord; and may we all respond as the cheerful, generous givers the Lord seeks us to be.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor", written in a cursive style.

Rev John P. Minnich, S.T.M.