

March 21, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of God's beloved Son, Who came to give His life for us.

I am writing to you as we face a very significant decision on March 26. At our Voters Meeting at Noon in the gym, we will vote on a proposal to fund the implementation of a capital campaign in the fall and to obtain enhanced building design plans for possible Phase 2 of Tell the Next Generation (TTNG) construction. I want to emphasize that we are not voting on March 26 to build anything and will not do so until we know how much we will expect to receive in pledged offerings. That vote, to proceed with construction, will probably take place in November, following the receiving of all pledges.

I cannot overemphasize how much God has blessed us following Phase 1 of TTNG. Thanks to Pastor Wade's, Principal Walker's, and Renee Hemmy's research, we have the following numeric summary of those blessings:

K-8 School Enrollment:

2017-2019	2020-2022
2017 – 163	2020 – 186
2018 – 159	2021 – 199
2019 – 151	2022 – 213

Baptisms Resulting Directly from School, Early Childhood Center, and Parents Day Out Program:

2017-2019	2020-2022
2017-2019 Total: 10	2020-2022 Total: 41
2017 – 0	2020 – 16
2018 – 4	2021 – 14
2019 – 6	2022 – 11

Adult Confirmations (All):

2017-2019 Total: 32	2020-2022 Total: 74
2017 – 12	2020 – 24
2018 – 11	2021 – 18
2019 – 9	2022 – 32

Adult Confirmations Resulting Directly from School, Early Childhood Center, and Parents Day Out Program:

2017-2019 Total: 8

2017 – 2

2018 – 4

2019 – 2

2020-2022 Total: 51

2020 – 21

2021 – 10

2022 – 20

We have all witnessed these blessings and we give all thanks, praise, and glory to God!

As God continues to expand our school enrollment, continues to bring new families into our midst, and continues to bless us in so many ways, it is my hope and prayer that we can keep this momentum going forward. I do not believe that we would have received nearly the number of new students and families into our St. Paul's family of faith if we were still operating with our 1950s and 1960s school facilities. As our forefathers boldly stepped out in faith, I am hoping we can do the same on March 26.

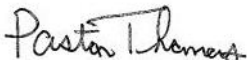
I must address the estimated cost range of \$17-22 million for Phase 2 of TTNG. Please know that we are working to reduce this cost in ways that will not compromise future ministry. Unfortunately, we are "land-locked" and we cannot expand outward without losing unacceptable amounts of parking space. So, the three-story design is placed before you with the realization that this will be our final chance for many years to come to increase and improve our ministry space on our North Campus.

If you have not seen the proposed building plans or would like to review them again, you may do so by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

I invite you to dream with me about what the future might look like at St. Paul's with God's continued blessing: A K-8 school of 300-400 students; a congregation of 3,500+ baptized members; and a fervent, thriving ministry of God's Word and Sacraments to "Strengthen the Saved and Save the Lost."

I am excited about this possibility and I hope you are as well!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Glen D. Thomas
Senior Pastor