



Over the next six weeks we will be sharing the details of how God is once again calling Emanuel's Lutheran Church *Forward in Faith*. Through temple talks, videos, bulletin inserts, events, and more, we will share all of the details of this fundraising campaign and the impact it will have. We hope that you will receive this information, listen for how God is calling Emanuel's Lutheran Church to the future, and prayerfully consider your support of the *Forward in Faith* Campaign, which will culminate with commitments received on the weekend of May 1st.

FORWARD IN FAITH

In the 152 years since Pastor Johannes Wohlschegel and 19 families established Emanuel's Lutheran Church, our congregation has moved *Forward in Faith* to be the church God calls us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all.

We have done so in times of great uncertainty – from the fallout of the American Civil War through the Great Depression to our current national strife and pandemic weariness. We have done so as Seguin has grown from a small town of 830 people in 1870 to today's population boom in the rapidly expanding Austin-San Antonio Corridor.

No matter the challenges of the day, God has always been faithfully present with the people of Emanuel's, constantly bringing new life to our ministry. In response, Emanuel's has continuously stepped *Forward in Faith* to minister in new and meaningful ways to our members and to the wider community.

It is our responsibility to equip God's people, to do God's work, and to build up the church, the body of Christ - Ephesians 4:12-13

As we prepare for this 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 life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded, or it turns in upon itself and you lose it. "Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his 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 seek our support, but we must remember it is God's church and it will prosper and flourish in God's own good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of – God's church and the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending its mission.

Just as a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled The Need of the Church. We need to begin concentrating on the side headed My Need to Give for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth.



"I am excited about what this campaign will mean for our congregation and community in the years ahead. Providing safer, nicer, and more accommodating facilities is good stewardship of our resources and will enable us to extend our ministries." -Steve Anderson