

Council Comments - Sharing Good News!

This week, Bob Corbett shares about Our 100th Anniversary and our Mortgage

The year 2023 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Grace Lutheran, a church that was organized as a home away from home for Lutheran students attending Winthrop University. But over the years Grace has expanded this calling and created outreach opportunities to include internal member programming, local and state outreach and even support to national and global initiatives.

With our 100th Anniversary fast approaching, we can make an even greater impact on future internal programming and community outreach funding by continuing to pay down and eliminate the mortgage we hold. We have hopes we can accomplish this goal by late 2023.

As of the end of July our balance on the mortgage was reduced to just under \$125,000. Because of generous member giving and savvy financial decision, we are within clear sight of eliminating this burden and meeting the rally cry Pastor Ray Mohrman challenged us with back in 2005: "Set Us Free From \$1.3". We are currently paying \$4,068/month as intended in our ministry spending plan, and we are making additional monthly payments from over and above gifts provided by congregation members.

I believe we would all really enjoy a mortgage burning party in 2023 during our yearlong 100th Anniversary celebration. Going into the planning process for next year's ministry spending, the Council is planning on funding the mortgage payments for 2022 at the same level as this year. This commitment, along with any generous over and above mortgage giving, should help us make 2023 an incredibly exciting year.

What do we do with the "savings" when the mortgage is paid off? Well, Grace will be able to plan for and fund current programs at a higher level and future outreach programs can be created. In other words, we as a church can focus our efforts on meeting the needs of our members and the overall community as we are called. We give thanks for your support of our efforts to make this happen.