

JOYFUL NOISE

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth... Psalm 98:4



We believe that there are three primary, core relationships and we describe them by these three directions:
a UP: the relationship between an individual and God
C IN: the relationship between an individual and the people in his or her life
D OUT: the relationship between an individual and the world around him or her

From January to the first Sunday in March we will explore the transforming power of God through our relationships:

January 2

Conform or Transform

January 9

Up Life...God is Good

January 16

Up Life...God is Love

January 23

Up Life...God Transforms

January 30

In Life...The Good Life

February 6

In Life...Self-Sacrifice

February 13

In Life...Christ-Centered

February 20

Out Life...Get Out

February 27

Out Life...Servant's Heart

March 6

Out Life...Out Spoken

The Resolution Has Passed!

"The Resolution has Passed!" What a moment to celebrate in our journey together as we move ahead with plans to expand the mission of God's church here in Gurnee and Lake County! These words were shared with us in our sanctuary from Congregational President, Alice Cantwell following our congregational vote to decide whether to approve a resolution to move ahead with the plans that have been shared over the last year. What this means is that we're on our way with faith that God's plans for us are being revealed to us on a daily basis.

To be, "All in!" means that we have collectively and individually committed to the plans that have been prayed upon, dreamed and visioned upon, worked upon and now presented, voted upon and approved. The vote to approve the plans came in with an 85% approval from the congregational members who voted. There was much discussion about the form of the resolution, the meaning of the finances as presented, questions about how we will be using space for current ministries, the youth, staffing and outreach. There will continue to be questions that need answers and prayers for support, but we pray that everyone will support this decision together, no matter what the individual vote was.

As a congregation, we need to have support for one another, love for one another, respect for everyone, and faith in our leadership to make faithful decisions that will lead us forward. As a baseline, we need to agree that we all care for the youth equally, that even if we can't get all that we want in our first phase, we will never take that out of view in our ultimate goal.

This is a wonderful time to have our faith examined and supported with one another. Let's stay together with the vision and mission as our focus, and know that God has us firmly in his grip.

Peace!

Don Swanson, So That Lives Are Changed Campaign Lead

So That Lives Are Changed . . . FEBRUARY IS: MONTH OF UNDIES

boxers, briefs, panties--toddlers through XXXL

undershirts--toddlers through XXXL

long underwear--toddlers through XXXL

Look for a collection box in the lobby each Sunday in February
Contacts: Angie List Sheets (847 548 5918) Jean Hackbert (847 548 4261)

News from the Finance Team:

How will Joy! pay for the So That Lives Are Changed Building Project?

Building Joyful Steps (cash in bank)	\$350,000
Building Joyful Steps (mortgage pay down)	\$500,000
Changed Lives Capital Campaign	\$800,000
Additional Debt	<u>\$650,000</u>
Total Building Project	\$2,200,000

New Mortgage Payment	\$10,507
Addtl monthly expense (utilities, insurance, etc)	\$3,000

Although we passed a resolution to obtain a mortgage of up to \$2,200,000, we anticipate the new mortgage to be \$1,820,000. The additional amount is to protect Joy! for cash flow in the event pledges are not received when funds are needed. We have continued our discussions with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA and begun the application process. Rates did not go up for February (Yeah God!) and we expect the interest to be between 4.5%-4.875%. During the construction, only interest will be payable on the loan. After occupancy, the construction loan turns over to a mortgage where principal and interest will be due. The Finance Committee (Gloria Ricchio, chair, Sue Gearica, Treasurer, Roland Bellman, Financial Manager, Heidi Houdek, Greg Kechik, and Mike Turchi) thank you for being **All In!** We will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding the financing of this building project.

All In!**What does it mean to be "All In!"?**

It means that you are committed to a three dimensional life.

A UP - Life in relationship with God.

(worship, Bible study, prayer, stewardship)

C IN - Life in relationship with those who share our faith journey.

(small group, relationships, serve, care, support, encouragement, love, share resources)

D OUT - Life in relationship with a world of people.

(serve, evangelism, share resources, relationships, love, mission)

It means you are committed to resourcing the Joy! ministries.

Resources: Spiritual Gifts, Strengths, Talents, Financial, Sweat, Prayer, Encouragement

It means you are committed to Changed Lives!

Local and Global Outreach, Ministry of the Word and Service