

CASE STATEMENT: “ABOVE AND BEYOND”

Colossians 3:2

***“Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.”***

OUR MISSION

“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, community, and world.”

OUR THREE-FOLD VISION

“One Mission” – We are urgently seeking opportunities to be joyfully engaged in the proclamation of the Gospel in both word and deed in our church, community, and our world. (2 Corinthians 5: 18-19)

“One Message” – The message of Law and Gospel is proclaimed powerfully in our church, community, and our world with evangelical urgency; cultural sensitivity; Lutheran fidelity; and Biblical clarity to transform lives in time for eternity. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“One People” – We are one people, united in Christ, and intentionally working together in faithfulness with mutual love and respect. (1 Peter 2:9)

OUR CORE VALUES

We Value A Congregation That Is...

...*STRONG* in the Word

...*FAITHFUL* in Worship

...*SACRIFICIAL* in Stewardship

...*ENGAGED* in Mission

...*PASSIONATE* for People

...*COMMITTED* to Christian Education

...*And GUIDED* by Grace through Faith

INTRODUCING “ABOVE AND BEYOND”

“ABOVE AND BEYOND” is the Biblically-based theme for our three (3) year funding effort designed to launch Divine Redeemer into the community to boldly reach others with the Good News of Jesus Christ, apart from whom, there can be no salvation.

“ABOVE”

Above is where we, as Christians, need to constantly look since our help comes from the Lord alone who made heaven and earth. Everything we say, think, and do should rightly be about our God: Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit. It's all about Him and the Great Commission that Jesus has given us, His Church, to accomplish.

“BEYOND”

God has not called us to live out a life of mediocrity. He has gifted each of us to live bold and courageous lives to His glory. Likewise, God's will for His Church is to go far beyond mere maintenance and mediocrity when it comes to ministry. We have come a long way in a very short period of time here at Divine Redeemer. We are immensely thankful for all of God's blessings along this incredible journey of faith. But, NOW, today, we are being called to an even higher level of ministry! NOW is the time for an “Above and Beyond” attitude. NOW is the time to sacrificially support our mutual mission and ministry through our God-given time, talent, and, yes, even our treasure in order to make an impact in our community for Jesus Christ.

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE PAST TO OUR FUTURE

Divine Redeemer has, over the years, faced struggles, challenges, and obstacles to its mission. Yet, by God's continued grace, He has continued to guide, bless, and empower our congregation against Satan's attacks. The Apostle Paul encourages us to “Set our minds on things above, not on earthly things” in Colossians 3:2. And he adds this thought in Philippians 3:13-14, “Forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal and win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

ABOVE AND BEYOND: THE CHALLENGES

- ***In the year 2000, due to increased enrollment, Divine Redeemer expanded its school. The remaining indebtedness on this project (now eleven years ago) stands at \$ 1,860,599.58 at the time of this writing (November 2010.)***
- **Our current monthly mortgage payment to M&I Bank is \$ 14,399.13 per month of God's offering dollars.**
- **Of this \$ 14,399.13 monthly mortgage payment to the bank, \$ 9,369.21 is the monthly interest and only \$ 5,029.92 goes toward principal!**
- **\$ 172,789.56 is the annual amount of precious mission and ministry dollars that goes to the bank each and every year and none of it for ministry!**
- **Loan amortization tables indicate that at this current rate, our indebtedness will continue well past most of our lifetimes severely hampering our present and future ministries, and forcing Divine Redeemer into a "maintenance mode" rather than a "ministry mindset."**
- **Our Facilities Team has completed an exhaustive study of our church and school facility. They discovered that because of deferred maintenance and the aging of the plant, approximately one million dollars will need to be expended within the next three years, We must address many imperative needs that can no longer be ignored: Our heating**

and cooling systems, roof repairs, parking lot resurfacing, landscaping issues, plumbing, electrical, etc. The full facilities report can be obtained from the church office.

- Two years ago, eighteen (18) Nehemiah Teams were established to begin new ministries which would profoundly impact our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ. These teams have worked tirelessly in developing plans to advance the overall strategic plan for Divine Redeemer. However, our current operating budget is woefully inadequate to fund any of their planned initiatives, thereby demoralizing these dedicated volunteers and halting our future progress as God's people.
- Our membership has expressed a strong desire for Divine Redeemer to offer cutting-edge youth ministry; professional financial administration; higher visibility in our community; heightened mission emphasis through human care and social ministries; improved facility appearance; new outwardly focused ministries; satellite worship locations; and a "mission focus" of both our church and school. Quality in ministry is everyone's goal.

ABOVE AND BEYOND: THE GOALS

For this campaign to be successful, we will need **EVERYONE** to participate! We are all part of the Divine Redeemer family, and when we work together, just think

of the great things God can accomplish through us! Not everyone has the same abilities, but everyone can do something. And together, that amounts to something big for God's Kingdom!

How will God work through YOU? Pray for "Above and Beyond" and seek His guidance for how He would have you participate!

Just imagine what saving \$ 172,700 year after year after year could do for meeting the challenges before us? That's an extra \$ 172,700 annually, even if our Sunday morning offerings would remain at their current level!

The GOALS of this campaign, then, are three-fold:

1. Retire our indebtedness. By saving our annual P&I payments, we will demonstrate good stewardship of our precious resources, and secure the next generation's future at Divine Redeemer.
2. Campus Renovation and Needed Maintenance. As good stewards (managers) of God's gifts to us, it is imperative that we properly take care of God's house and the beautiful educational facility which He has given us for His mission and ministry.
3. Expansion of Ministry. A recent demographic study commissioned by your leadership discovered 10,000 unchurched homes within a reasonable drive from our church and school. We need to address how best to reach these families. Your leadership wishes to do so in a bold and courageous manner through the following:

**** Aggressive Community Outreach using every communication vehicle at our disposal (a greatly improved website; social networking; publicity and marketing resources; direct mail, among others.)**

**** Broadening Our Ministry Base by incrementally adding much needed church staff, such as a full-time Director of Youth Ministries; a full-time Associate Pastor; a Director of Missions and Outreach; a Director of Discipleship; a Director of Communications: and a Director of Operations & Finance.**

**** Funding Ministries by freeing up mission dollars to empower the plans already laid by our Nehemiah Teams as they seek to begin innovative new ministries targeted to reach our community in the Name of Jesus.**

ABOVE AND BEYOND: THE DETAILS

- 1. We prayerfully intend that 100% of our church and school families will make sacrificial commitments “above and beyond” their normal Sunday morning offerings and/or their pledges to the operational budget of our parish. Presently, we have 1,430 communicant members and 577 baptized members, totaling 2,007 individuals who could make commitments to “Above and Beyond.”**
- 2. We prayerfully intend that a minimum of 700 members would study and discuss in small groups**

the landmark book, *“When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box,”* by John Ortberg.

3. We prayerfully intend that hundreds of our members will boldly go into our community and participate in a wide variety of “servant events,” designed to help others and bring the love and concern of God into people’s lives through word and deed.
4. We prayerfully intend to gather commitments totaling three (3) million dollars “above and beyond” our normal annual gifts to the ministry budget. The \$3,000,000 target will be achieved, by God’s grace, within a three-year window.
5. Prayerfully, your elected Board of Directors intends to equally distribute (50/50) the annual revenue from the campaign between immediate debt reduction of principal at M&I Bank and the Maintenance Fund until the Maintenance Fund reaches a cap equal to the annual maintenance requirement. After that, 100% of the continuing revenue for that given year will immediately pay down the principal at M&I Bank.

“ABOVE AND BEYOND” Seeks To:

“Strengthen our Mission and Ministry by Securing Our Future and by Serving Others As We Go.”
