

# FAQ

frequently asked questions

## why is this a comprehensive campaign?

This effort, beginning now and continuing through 2027, includes three invitations for financial support for our shared mission and ministry at Trinity:

**annual ministry support** for 2024  
**capital campaign** over 3 years (2024-2027)  
**legacy gift planning**

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## what is annual ministry support?

Our combined gifts are the lifeblood for what we do together as a faith community: *everything from funding staff positions to providing ministry for people of all ages to paying for utilities for our church home.*

And, as we worship together, and gather in many ways for many reasons throughout the week, we reach out with the love of Christ to welcome, serve, and support our neighbors, locally and globally.

The Ministry budget for 2024 is approximately \$1.4M. We are excited to report we have received 221 pledge cards for 2024, with almost 50% of the household pledges increasing their planned support in 2024 over 2023!

## why a capital campaign?

As good stewards, it's important that we continue to maintain and care for our church home, as a platform for our mission and ministry. Built by multiple generations, this is where we gather as a faith community. And we further build community by welcoming and bringing together many groups for many activities such as *Trinity Preschool*, pickleball, *Boy Scouts*, Orono schools, *Summer Nights*, *AGAPE*, cello lessons, *Classical Piano Benefit Concert Series*, and many more!

**The 3-year goal for the Capital Campaign, beyond annual ministry gifts is \$1.25M.**

## what is legacy gift planning?

Some members have already included Trinity in their estate plans. Education will be provided on ways you can plan to support Trinity beyond your lifetime.

# what are the components for the *capital campaign*?

- maintaining our property
- managing and retiring our mortgage debt
- enhancing our spaces
- growing our partnerships



## *Are there priorities for how gifts will be used?*

Yes. First, there will be an optional opportunity to direct a tithe (10%) of campaign gifts for the purpose of **Growing our Partnerships**. This has been a practice in previous capital campaigns.

Even as we care for our church home, we can help others.

Two projects for these gifts would be shared and enhance the support we already provide with two of our mission partners:

- Interfaith Outreach** – Funding for playground and bike racks for affordable housing at Melrose Commons in Medina
- Salem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis** – Kitchen improvements for increasing food ministry

## *what are the ordered priorities for our facilities?*

### **1 maintaining our property**

- Roof Replacement
- HVAC systems
- Enhanced Sanctuary Lighting, Sound, Video
- Improved Building Security

Project scope, cost estimates and bids are being researched for each project. Timing will depend on urgency (the roof is already leaking, and one HVAC unit has already been replaced), costs, and funding available through gifts over the next 3 years, along with approximately \$80,000 remaining in the current maintenance fund.

### **2 mortgage management**

#### *What is the current status of our mortgage?*

- Mortgage balance at 12/31/23 = \$273,314
- New mortgage rate effective 9/1/23 = 5.75% (old rate was 3.25%)
- Monthly mortgage payments = \$2,552
- The loan matures in 2027, at which point we will need to refinance the mortgage
- The balance of the loan at that time = \$212,000

#### *Why do we want to address our mortgage debt?*

- Campaign gifts will be used to manage our mortgage. We have depleted designated reserves from previous capital campaigns, so this year's payments are part our annual ministry budget.
- Trinity has wisely reduced the principal in the past. As a result, although the interest rate has now increased,

the new monthly payment has decreased (prior monthly payment was \$3,109). Even though the rate went up, the monthly payment decreased due to making additional principal payments earlier in the mortgage.

- By paying off the mortgage completely, we would free future generations from the debt we have incurred and allow funds to be directed for future ministry priorities.

### **3 enhancing our spaces**

Within the footprint of our current facilities, there are opportunities to reconfigure areas so that we can invite more small group communities to gather (both Trinity members and the larger community).

The Fellowship Hall area has the most potential for this. This is an exciting concept. A task force will be formed, and plans will be developed with the imagination and input of many.

## **what are next steps?**

Please take time to *reflect, pray, and discuss* with loved ones and, perhaps, with a financial advisor. And then respond with joy and gratitude!  
*All gifts matter.*

You are invited to make an initial gift and/or three-year pledge, over and above your annual ministry support. **Your generous response** will ensure we continue to be good stewards of our church home, grateful for all who have made this possible, and with the hope and promise of God's abiding presence for future generations.