

■ **Are my gifts tax deductible?**

Yes, gifts to this appeal are tax deductible if you itemize your contributions when filing your tax return.

■ **May I contribute gifts other than cash?**

Yes, you may contribute gifts of property, stock, life insurance and other securities. If you have questions about the tax implications of your gift, please consult your tax advisor.

■ **Are we encouraging friends of Risen Savior to make a School Fund gift?**

Yes, we will ask friends to consider a gift towards the School Fund. If you would like to encourage a friend or relative to make a com-

mitment or a one-time gift, please do so. If you would like us to mail them a brochure and commitment card, please give the name and address to our Appeal Secretary, LaDonna Henry 925-9431.

■ **What if I don't have a child that will attend this school?**

Most members won't have children in this school. Yet this Appeal is a joint effort of our entire membership, for we all have received Christ's Commission to make disciples by teaching them. Very few congregations have the opportunity today that we have to carry out His Commission through a quality Christian school. The school's gospel ministry will bring young souls to Christ and strengthen them in daily Bible study for a lifetime of discipleship! These are eternal

blessings that God will bring to hundreds of people we yet don't know. He'll do this through our school ministry made possible by our sacrificial gifts.

■ **How can I make this appeal a success?**

- By praying for Risen Savior Lutheran Church;
- By prayerfully responding to God's gift of love with your generous gifts;
- By returning your commitment cards as part of worship on Thank You Sunday, June 17, 2011

Please pray for the success of our Ministry Expansion Appeal and ask God to bless us.



April 2011

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Dear Members and Friends of Risen Savior Lutheran Church,

Our *Rooted & Growing* Appeal is well underway thanks to the efforts of many friends and members who are working to make it a success. We are excited about this project and want to share some information with you.

Enclosed you will find information in a Q & A format explaining:

- The goals and objectives of the appeal
- How funds will be used
- How you can help make our appeal successful

Please take time to study this information. In the meantime, we ask you to pray, think, and talk about the opportunity before us. We believe that God is calling each of us to grow in our faith and generosity. We are hopeful that through God's grace and your generous response our appeal will be successful.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Schultz
General Chairman

James Borgwardt
Pastor

WHAT ARE SOME OPTIONS?

1 Matching Existing Giving—As a starting point, we ask everyone to pray and consider matching or doubling your current regular giving over the next three years. For example, if you are currently giving \$30 per week (\$1,560 per year) to the church's ministry, would you please pray and consider giving an additional \$30 per week to the building fund over the next three years?

2 Pacesetter Gift—We ask those who are in a position to give more, to pray and consider making a pacesetter gift to the appeal in an amount totaling \$5,000 to \$25,000 over the next three years.

3 Major Gift—We invite those who have been financially blessed to pray and consider making a very special gift to the appeal in an amount totaling \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more over the three-year appeal.

INSIDE

Questions and Answers about the *Rooted & Growing* Appeal (pages 2-3)

Giving Options (page 4)



Please give as God inspires you. We pray that all of our gift giving decisions will lead us to greater spiritual growth.

What is the purpose of this appeal?

Our *Rooted & Growing* Appeal is a time for growth in faith and generosity. We each have an opportunity to study God’s grace in Christ and our thankful, thoughtful response in love for him.

In worship and Bible Study we will hear God speak to us about the mission of the Church and our stewardship of his blessings.

Why did we choose the theme “Rooted & Growing”?

It fits where we are as a growing congregation in Pooler.

- Rooted in the Word of God, we hope to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus.
- Rooted in that grace and knowledge, we hope to grow in our lives as stewards of God’s blessings.
- As we raise up the next generation of disciples here at Risen Savior, our school will help to root them deeply in God’s Word so they can grow in Christ.
- And as a congregation now established in Pooler, we hope to grow our ministry to better equip our members and reach out to our community.

How will this Appeal be carried out?

This Appeal will seek to grow faithful Christian stewardship through the prayerful study of God’s Word. We hope that every member will take part in our study of *Church & Ministry*. Members will have opportunity to respond to His grace by committing a portion of God’s gifts to our Ministry Expansion Fund.

How long have we been thinking of a school?

The school vision has been in place for most of our church’s existence. When others heard of our vision for a school, Risen Savior received two amazing gifts in 2003: The Savannah Quarters developer donated the eight acres of property we are now on, with the understanding that we’d build a school. Then an anonymous WELS donor gave us \$240,000 toward our current building!

What planning has been done?

Earlier this decade, we engaged WELS *Forward with Lutheran School* Consultants on three occasions to help us evaluate the opportunity that God has placed before us. The following positive factors added up to a strong recommendation by the consultants to pursue an elementary school ministry:

- local desire to see a quality school in the area
- the openness of the community to paying for private, Christian education
- our location in the fastest growing area of Chatham county
- the various strengths of the congregation

Can our building handle a school?

We built this facility for a school. Our building has been a big advantage when prospective preschool parents have chosen a school.

How successful has our preschool been?

God has blessed our preschool with a strong staff, a great reputation, and full classrooms with a waiting list for all grades. Multiple parents have asked each year when we’re starting a kindergarten. The preschool would be a good feeder for the elementary school.

From where will the teachers come?

The teachers could be called from within the congregation, from another WELS school, or from our teacher college—Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. The WELS has one of the best teacher training systems of any Christian denomination. All of our full-time teachers will either have been trained there, or would work toward certification from MLC if they received their degree elsewhere.

What is the status of the Westbrook property?

Last year an anonymous family donated a beautiful estate plot in the Westbrook subdivision. It has been under contract for a few months. The banker for the buyer and realtor recently told us to expect to close this month.

How will that money be used?

The proceeds will be split between us and a WELS school elsewhere. We expect to receive \$75,000 after closing. The congregation will then determine how those funds will be used. Possibilities include a tuition scholarship fund for our members who attend the school, the school building expansion, debt retire-

ment, or other ministry endeavors.

How much money do we hope to raise in this appeal?

Our goal is to raise \$300,00 in three year commitments toward our expanding school ministry.

Contributing to the Ministry Expansion Fund will be OVER and ABOVE our weekly offerings for current expenses.

How will the Ministry Expansion Fund be used?

Approximately \$100,000 would be used for start-up costs that the school would incur in its first couple years. We hope that tuition income would cover the operating costs by the fourth year.

The remaining \$200,000 would go toward Phase Two of our building plans.

How much would tuition be?

Tuition would need to start near \$5000/year in order to cover the anticipated operating costs.

What costs do we expect?

Called Worker Support – Since the teachers would be WELS trained called workers, the annual support (including salary, health, and housing) for each teacher would begin around \$50,000/year.

Start-up costs – Other new schools have told us to anticipate spending \$10,000 to equip each new classroom.

Facility Expansion costs – Assuming that we’ll have one classroom per grade, we’ll need more space by the fourth year of the school’s operation

for the third grade class. A second building for the school would ideally include seven more classrooms, office space, teaching workroom, a multipurpose room, restrooms (perhaps lockerrooms), and even a cafeteria. If such an expansion were done all at once, it could be around 10,000 square feet, and cost more than \$1 million.

Tuition assistance – There will be member families, especially those with multiple children, who will not be able to afford such a school even after making sacrifices in every other area of their family budgets. An endowment fund for tuition assistance would be ideal.

There was initial talk of having a full-time developer on site for one whole year before opening the school. What happened with that plan?

It was determined that such a plan was too expensive, and probably unnecessary since we were beginning with one grade, rather than many grades.

How will the school be developed then?

Others who have recently planned a new school estimated that we should expect an educator to devote 10+ hours/week for the year of development. We will need to hire someone part-time to do that groundwork.

What is the timeline?

July, 2011—Start planning for the new elementary school.

November, 2011—Start calling for

a kindergarten teacher

January, 2012—Open House and registration for kindergarten

August, 2012—Risen Savior Academy opens with first kindergarten class

How can I make my gifts to this Ministry Expansion Appeal?

Every member will be asked to consider a three-year commitment. Those who will move away may choose to commit to the time they’ll be here. The following giving table may be helpful in planning your gifts. Here’s how a weekly gift can grow in size over a three-year period:

My Weekly Gift of:	Amounts to an Annual Gift of:	Amounts to a 3-year Gift of:
\$5	\$260	\$780
10	520	1,560
15	780	2,340
20	1,040	3,120
25	1,300	3,900
30	1,560	4,680
40	2,080	6,240
50	2,600	7,800
70	3,640	10,920
100	5,200	15,600
150	7,800	23,400
320	16,640	50,000