

## SOWING SEEDS *of faith...*

*"Truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." - Matthew 17:20*

### FaithPoint

From the time the first seed of faith was planted to start a new church, our foundation has been built upon the authority of God's Word. We have grown through faith in Jesus and trust in His plan and His time. This is how the name "FaithPoint" came to be. Along the way, more seeds of faith were planted, God responded, and the church continued to grow:

**Faith that God was calling us to start a new church.** In August 2011, a group of local residents met together to pray for God's direction in the formation of a new church and the first "seed" was planted. The overwhelmingly positive response and spirit of God at work was such that later that fall, a new church was born. On October 30, 2011, Rev. Dr. Steve Trewartha was installed as our pastor.

**Faith that God would lead us to a location where we could gather for worship.** There was no building for this new church so services were held in the Middle school and later at the High School. This was our place of worship for 2 ½ years. The seeds flourished and our church grew.

**Faith that God would provide a more permanent home.** What a blessing when State Bank of New Prague donated their building. "Operation Renovation" was soon launched and over \$100,000 was raised to renovate the Ministry Center. Over 100 people gave thousands of hours of their time, along with their talents to help transform the bank into a worship center. The building became our church home allowing us to offer multiple service options, eliminate rent payments and avoid weekly setup at the high school.

**Faith that God would bless our efforts to grow His kingdom.** As the seeds of faith were planted there was more growth - so much growth that our "new" building started bursting at the seams! Every bit of space was being used including the boiler room, vault, hallways and storage spaces for kids and adult ministries.

**Faith that we could raise funds to purchase land for our new building.** Through the Spirit of Thanksgiving drive the people of FaithPoint raised \$224,000 which enabled us to pay cash for 14 acres of farmland on the southwest corner of Redwing (89) and 270th Street which we purchased in 2016.

**Faith that God would reveal His timing for the construction of our new building.** In the summer of 2020, after carefully weighing the cost and affects of the pandemic we took another step of faith and began the building process. July 12th will be a day we remember forever. Gathering to break ground, we celebrated God's faithfulness and asked for His blessing on the construction.

## SOWING SEEDS *of hope...*

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." - Hebrews 6:19*

As we look back on it, we can see how God was working through our faith to birth and grow FaithPoint. There were many moments when God answered our prayers in miraculous ways, providing for us at just the right time and in just the right way:

We needed ceiling tile for the basement clean-up effort and it just so happened that a church member had a pallet of them just sitting in his barn.

We needed a large hanging projector screen and one of our members found one in perfect condition in a dumpster.

We needed a shed for lawn equipment. A neighbor to a FaithPoint member had just built a new one and graciously donated his old shed to the church. A true blessing.

Knowing of the birth of FaithPoint, a family in town asked if we might have need of a 15-passenger van. We said yes! It has been used to haul kids up to the Boundary Waters and across the country, as well as transport adults to conferences and concerts.

Speaking of hope, after installing our new church sign, a group of church members gathered outside to pray. As they were gathering, strangers pulled up on a motorcycle asking what was happening because they felt led to this place. The couple got off their motorcycle and prayed with us. Then as mysteriously as they appeared, they got back on their motorcycle and drove off, never to be seen again.



In all these experiences we have seen the presence of God and it has affirmed our work, strengthened our faith, solidified our trust in Him, and given us hope for the future. Not just wishful thinking, but a sure and certain hope ... one that is grounded on the promises of God.

## SOWING SEEDS *of love...*

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* - John 13:34

FaithPoint members are not only followers of Christ, but also enthusiastic doers of His work. They have consistently demonstrated the passion, energy and dedication to be the hands and feet of Christ. Generously they share the love of Christ with others through various ways, such as:

Ministering to one another through the Pink Tag ministry, Meal Ministry, and the Prayer Team.

Serving those in need in our community and surrounding areas through outreach ministries like Loads of Love and Block of Blessing and through partnerships with the Peace Center, Hope House, Adopt-a-Family, and doing litter pickup with the Adopt-a-Highway program.



Promoting the spread of the good news of Christ globally through missionary support and mission trips, and through short-term projects like Feed My Starving Children and Operation Christmas Child.

Expanding our ministry virtually to include weekly live-streamed services and Wednesday youth ministries, virtual devotions, teleconferenced bible studies are just a few of the new pathways for outreach God has provided. This expansion of our technical capabilities will benefit us greatly as we move into our new church home.

## SOWING SEEDS *of joy...*

*"You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest."* - Ephesians 4:15-16

In the nine years since FaithPoint was formed, God has blessed us. Let us rejoice in all He has done and all He will do. As we anticipate ministry in our new building we are overjoyed to:

- ✦ Welcome new and existing members into a large, inviting and glorious space.
- ✦ Accommodate gatherings of all sizes in comfortable, hospitable, technologically-advanced worship space, including improved live-stream capabilities.
- ✦ Spread God's Word and love through abundant designated space for our youth and children's programs.
- ✦ Welcome people of all mobility with our handicap-accessible building and ample parking.
- ✦ Utilize the land acquired for family, community and faith-building activities.
- ✦ Enjoy quiet meditation, relaxation, or family time in a peaceful Prairie Grass walking area.



We now see the beautiful progress of our new building which will increase our impact in the community and produce good fruit for generations. Although a new building is exciting, we see it as a tool - to draw people to Christ, join together in fellowship, spread the gospel, serve others, and be a place of faith and belonging.

We envision:

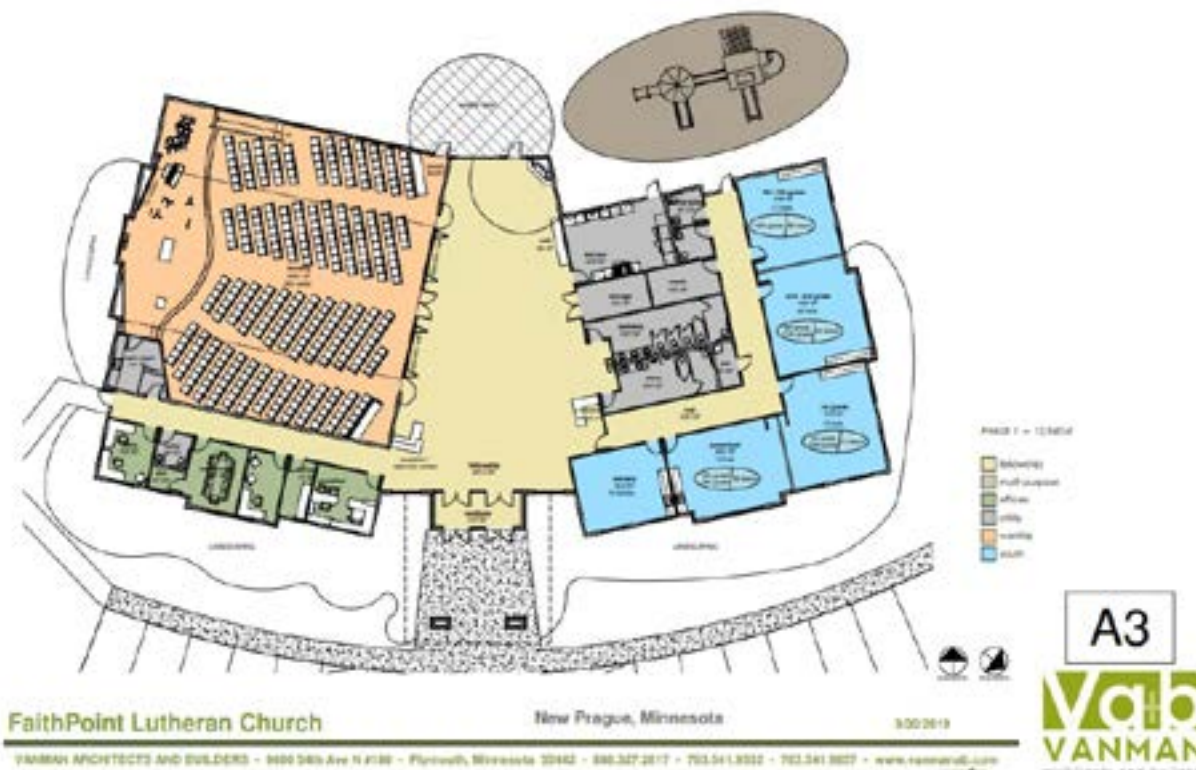
- ✦ Members of the community coming to faith in Christ through FaithPoint.
- ✦ Members of the community learning of God's tremendous love.
- ✦ Our kids and grandkids getting married here and raising their families in faith here.
- ✦ Church activities to strengthen the fellowship of believers: vacation bible school, picnics, family carnivals, first communion, confirmation, high school activities.

# BUILDING SPECIFICS

- 13,000 Square Feet
- Sanctuary and Large Gathering Area (Great Room)
- 5 Large Education Rooms
- Conference Room
- Nursery
- Offices
- Kitchen
- Storage



Total Investment: \$3.4M (includes purchase of land)  
 Total Paid in Cash: \$1.2M  
 \*\*As of January 1, 2021



# FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP *of our Resources...*

We are a people tremendously blessed, called to be a blessing to others by spreading the seeds of faith, hope, love and joy. As we anticipate moving into our new building this spring, we seek to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

**From the beginning, the goal has been to follow God’s call to build a new church home while positioning FaithPoint in a solid place, financially:**

- ✝ The land (\$224,000) was paid for with cash in 2016.
- ✝ In 2017 we launched the Rely, Reach, Respond campaign with a “Needs Goal” of \$750,000 and a “Miracle Goal” of \$1M.
- ✝ Initial gifts & pledges were \$680,000 and **as of January 2021 we have raised \$947,000!**

**In total, over 30% of the total cost of the building has already been paid,** saving thousands of dollars in loan-related interest payments and ensuring a long-term financial plan that does not jeopardize the congregation’s ability to grow its mission and ministry.

The Building and Finance Teams have been meeting regularly to manage the project, oversee and approve spending. While lumber and land development expenses have been greater than anticipated, **members and local businesses have stepped forward to donate their products, services and time saving us more than \$150,000.** This includes:

Landscaping	Silt fence	Outdoor sprinkler system
Painting	Sound system	Installation of sanctuary lighting
Networking	Legal work	Wifi

As we prepare to complete the building this spring, **we will, for the first time in FaithPoint’s history, assume a mortgage.** We have been approved for a \$2M loan. In February 2020, the launch of a new campaign, was put on hold because of the effects of the pandemic. We are grateful and humbled by your continued financial support during this time of uncertainty. Over the summer, interviews of FaithPoint members, conducted by Kairos and Associates, revealed strong support for another campaign.

*February 2021 marks the official launch of: **Sowing Seeds in Fields of Faith Campaign** with a goal of \$1M over the next three years. Campaign Funds will be used to make mortgage payments and pay down principal.*



As we look to the future, we believe that God will continue to bless our church, guide us in the way He desires us to go, and sufficiently provide us with all that we need to plant His seeds and grow His disciples. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might partner with FaithPoint by making your most generous gift as we continue planting seeds of faith, hope, love and joy.

**“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”- 2 Corinthians 9:6-10**

**6 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love & self-discipline.” - 2 Timothy 1:7**

## WORKING TOGETHER *to grow God's kingdom...*

Our *Sowing Seeds in Fields of Faith* Campaign Goal is \$1M over the next 3 years.

Here's how together we can reach our goal:

	Number of Gifts	Yearly Gift	Gift Total (over 3 years)	Total
Lead Gifts	1	20,000	60,000	60,000
	1	16,666	50,000	50,000
	2	13,333	40,000	80,000
	4	10,000	30,000	120,000
	5	8,333	25,000	125,000
	6	5,000	15,000	90,000
	7	3,333	10,000	70,000
	8	3,000	9,000	72,000
	9	2,500	7,500	67,500
	11	2,000	6,000	66,000
	<b>Total: 54</b>			<b>Total: \$800,500</b>
Inspiring Phase Gifts	11	1,666	5,000	55,000
	12	1,000	3,000	36,000
	13	666	2,000	26,000
	14	500	1,500	21,000
	15	333	1,000	15,000
	16	250	750	12,000
	17	200	600	10,200
	19	166	500	9,500
	20	150	450	9,000
	21	100	300	6,300
	<b>Total: 158</b>			<b>Total: \$200,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>			<b>\$1,000,500</b>

## WAYS TO MAKE YOUR *Most Generous* GIFT

When we think about responding generously with our finances, most of us think first about our monthly budgets and become discouraged. But there are ways you can extend your giving potential by looking at your entire resource base.

Using a combination of assets and cash can expand your giving potential. Two of the most common gifts from assets are Stock Donations and IRA Donations.

### **Instructions for Stock Donations:**

1. Contact Pastor Steve (prsteve@faithpointlc.org or 952-393-2717) and indicate that you will be making a stock transfer. Give the name of the security and the number of shares to be transferred. Normally, we do not receive notification from the broker. All that the church brokerage account reflects are the shares coming into the account with no indication of the donor. Please, be sure to let the church office know what you are doing (and when) so we can track the transfer and properly credit your account.
2. If the stock you wish to contribute is held in "Street Name", i.e., held in your brokerage account in the name of the brokerage firm, tell your broker to transfer the stock by "DTC" (Depository Trust Company). This is an electronic procedure for transferring stock, which immediately credits the shares to FaithPoint's account at Fidelity Business Brokerage Account.

### *To transfer stock by DTC:*

Indicate to your broker that you wish to make a DTC stock transfer to FaithPoint Lutheran Church. Provide the broker with:

- Fidelity's DTC Number: 0226
- FaithPoint's Fidelity Account Number Z48734684
- Remember to let the Church office know when you gift the stock so they can track the transfer.

### **Instructions for IRA Donations:**

1. Determine the amount of the donation you'd like to make. Note: the donation can count toward (but is not limited to) your Required Minimum Distribution.
2. Call the institution that holds your IRA and tell them you'd like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Note: you must be at least 70½ years old at the time you make the request.
3. Give them the church name and address: FaithPoint Lutheran Church, 201 Central Ave N, New Prague, MN 56071. Make sure the check gets made out to *FaithPoint Lutheran Church*. This way you will not pay taxes on the donation. Keep in mind you won't be able to deduct the gift, however.
4. You can still request that the check be mailed to you (as long as it's made out to FaithPoint). If you choose to have it sent directly to FaithPoint, make sure to call the church and let us know what institution it is coming from.

## OTHER ASSET-BASED GIVING OPTIONS

Below are other ways you can extend your giving potential using assets:

### *Appreciated Assets*

A gift of investment assets which have appreciated in value is one of the most common gifting strategies. The asset should, in relative terms, be “substantially appreciated” if the giver wishes to receive tax benefits as a result of the charitable gift.

### *Life Insurance*

Some people have accumulated cash in insurance policies which they give to the church. Others purchase new policies with the church as beneficiary or name the church beneficiary of an existing policy. Donors may also give the entire policy as an outright gift.

### *Investment Income*

Various types of investments distribute interest or dividends. If a donor is not using the distribution for current income, rather than be reinvested, the interest or dividends may be assigned, for a defined period, to the church while the donor retains ownership of the asset.

### *Gift Annuity*

The donor funds a gift annuity with an appreciated asset and gives it to the church; in turn the church distributes a lifetime (or defined period) of income to the donor. This is an excellent way to convert a substantially appreciated asset into an income source for the donor.

### *Charitable Trusts*

Assets are held in a trust. The trust can distribute income to the donor until death (or defined event) causes the asset to be distributed to the charity.

### *Real Estate*

An unencumbered piece of real estate that is readily salable in the marketplace can be a wonderful gift. In fact, real estate is one of the most often given assets because it is easy to gift.

### *Grain or Livestock*

Contact your grain elevator or auction company and ask that your grain or livestock (give specific number of bushels or head) be placed in the name of FaithPoint Lutheran Church, 201 Central Ave N, New Prague, MN 56071. Contact the church office so we can make arrangements to sell.

## MAKING THE MOST OF CASH GIFTS

The same principle can be applied to cash gifts to expand your giving potential. Consider combining a couple of options below:

### *Intentional Spending*

As we become more aware of our spending, we can choose to minimize expenses:

- Coffehouse Latte \$4.85 - Skip one a week for three years and make a pledge of \$756
- Summer Vacation \$3,000 - Stay home one year and make a pledge of \$3,000
- Lunch out \$15 - Brown bag it twice a week for three years and make a pledge of \$4,680

### *Priority Budgeting*

This involves postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, sailboat, vacation home, and applying the same monthly payments toward the capital campaign.

### *Re-Channeling a Present Expenditure*

Many families learn to budget for short-term large expenditures, e.g., while their children attend college. Same philosophy applies when budgeting to support their church’s vision.

### *Unexpected Cash*

One couple decided to give an inheritance to their church to expand their gift to the building project. Other people give income tax refunds.

### *Increases in Income*

Many people have incremental salary increases, overtime, or bonuses which they include as part of their gift to their church.

### *Extra Work*

One man postponed his retirement and gave the first three years of his retirement income to the church. Another woman worked an extra year beyond retirement and gave the full amount to the building project.

## REAL LIFE Examples

The Jones family had 2 kids: one was a sophomore in high school, and one was a senior in college. They loved their church and were passionate about the renovations that were planned. When they determined their campaign gift, here’s what they came up with:

Source of Gift	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Re-Channeled Expense - College Tuition	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500
Tax Refund	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Yearly Totals	\$2,000	\$9500	\$9500
<b>Total Over 3 Years</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>		

## REAL LIFE *Examples (cont.)*

The Smiths are a young working couple new to their church. This will be their first commitment to a capital campaign. Mr. Smith plans to bring his lunch to work one extra day a week and Mrs. Smith is going to pick up 1 extra shift a week at a side-job she's had for years:

Source of Gift	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Intentional Spending - Skip 1 lunch out/week	\$750	\$750	\$750
Extra Work	\$500	\$500	\$500
Yearly Totals	\$1,250	\$1250	\$1250
Total Over 3 Years	\$3,750		

## PREPARING *to respond*

Before filling out your pledge card, please take a few minutes to reflect on these scripture passages, review our campaign goals, and pray.

### *Acknowledge God's gifts to you*

*"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Ephesians 1:7*

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

*"My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27*

*"In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace." Colossians 1:6*

### *Remember Our Goals*

- To sow seeds of faith by responding to God's faithfulness to us.
- To sow seeds of hope by claiming God's promises to us.
- To sow seeds of love by reaching out to our neighbors with the love of Christ.
- To be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.
- To make monthly mortgage payments and occasional principal payments.
- To sow seeds of joy by generously sharing our gifts and skills, time, and financial resources.

## PREPARING *to respond (cont.)*

### *Prayer*

*Our Dear Heavenly Father,*

*We come to you as our awesome, loving and compassionate Father, who blesses us beyond measure. All that we have and all that we are at FaithPoint is because of you.*

*Lord, as we begin this campaign to fund a new ministry facility, we thank you for how you have provided for us these past 9 years and blessed us in so many ways. Father we want to bring honor and glory to your name and spread your message of Christ's love and salvation to our community. Open our eyes and help us to see the plan you have set for us, guide us along your righteous path, and inspire our hearts to be your loving servants in this world.*

*Help us to mirror your generosity in a way that we can be a people who joyfully share the gifts of talents, finances and time that you have abundantly given each of us at FaithPoint. We ask for your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, encourage us, and increase our faith so that we may Love each other with the heart of Christ, Learn your word to share the good news, and Shine your light so that all may know you.*

*May our generosity reflect your enduring Grace. We love you Lord and pray this in your Holy Name. Amen*



### *Take a Step of Faith and Trust God*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6*

*"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12*