

Imagine What Could Be.

Mission Forward Campaign



**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably
more than all we ask or imagine, according to
his power that is at work within us...**

Ephesians 3:20



imagine what could be

Dear Friends of Selbu Lutheran Church,

You are receiving this mailing because you have some connection with this little mission outpost here on Mud Flat Road in LaCrosse, WA. You may be a current member, former member, friend of the congregation, or occasional supporter of our ministry. I hope you will take the time to look through this material and, as God leads, respond. Please pray about this, talk it over with loved ones, pray some more and then, when you are ready, fill in the response card that is enclosed. You may return it at any time. We expect that responses will come in all summer!



I love serving this congregation as pastor. God has blessed our ministry together and the Lord has been praised and served because Selbu is so lively and dedicated to Jesus. Highlights for me have been our Sunday worship services which are well-attended – up to 150 folks on certain Festive Days like Easter and Christmas; creating our Selbu Lutheran Church Web site and Facebook page - with an impressive online following; our 2014-17 Capital Campaign (\$150,000 given!) that provided funds for a new roof, renovated Bell Tower, handicap chair lift, and many other repairs throughout the church and the parsonage; and just the warm spirit of God's love that permeates everything that we do.

Things have gone well here in so many ways, but we are still a small parish in need of creating a more sufficient financial base for the future. That is why we have embarked on the Imagine What Could Be campaign.

Our church council has urged me to set a modest goal of \$50,000. They are wise leaders and I respect them immensely. And yet long-time members such as Bud Aune say that I am a big dreamer! So, yes, if we reach \$50,000, the campaign will have been a big success! Your Mud Flat Preacher, however, the "Big Dreamer," believes that God will provide more than that. My personal prayer is that our commitment to the Lord and love for Selbu are so powerful that people are going to give beyond their comfort level. What this congregation means to members and friends of Selbu cannot be overstated.

That is why my vision for the potential generosity of all of us - together - looks far beyond the minimum goal. What if we gave in a way that makes a life-changing impact on us, the givers? That could result in 3, 4 or 5 times more than the minimum. Our theme IS, remember, "Imagine What Could Be..."

Just as important as our current generosity is to Selbu, our long-term commitment through gifting our congregation in our will/trust is just as significant. (see pamphlet)

And, finally, another part of our campaign goal is to increase our efforts to invite others to join Selbu in worship and service, as well as to involve many more of our younger families in the years ahead.

I am urging you be a part of this historic campaign.

The Big Dreamer, your faithful Mud Flat Preacher,

John Cross

IT IS OUR TURN! OUR BLESSING! OUR OPPORTUNITY! OUR LEGACY!

"Imagine What Could Be" is our opportunity to make sure that our beloved church, Selbu Lutheran, will be alive and thriving for the next generation!

Timing is everything. What better time than right now, following the Covid-19 pandemic, to dream new dreams for our future!? Pastor John, who is just beginning his tenth year of ministry at Selbu, offered to lead a campaign for the future of this historic congregation - nestled in the wheat fields of Whitman County. Since 1903, this lively church has provided a place of worship, service, comfort, and prayer for the community.

As we approach our 120th anniversary, the "Imagine What Could Be" campaign will be a launching pad for future ministry. It is our opportunity to "pay it forward," much like those Norwegian immigrants did so many years ago.



Imagine What Could Be Campaign Projects

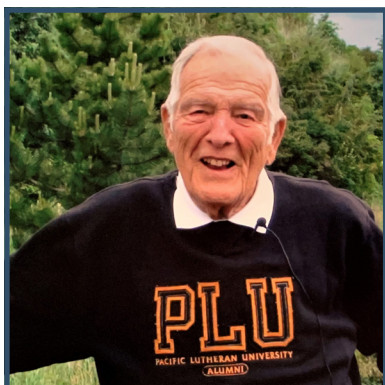
Outdoor Projects:

- Cemetery Access - finish road, gravel, stairs and signage.
- Outdoor Kiosk with brochures to share church history for Selbu visitors.
- Exterior maintenance - painting, stained glass windows, etc.
- Parsonage repairs and maintenance, including a separate exit door in garage.

Benevolence Ideas:

- Support local charities and projects.
- Build another school in the Philippines.
- Funding for local evangelism and advertising for Selbu.
- Support for our "parent" church, "Lutheran Congregations for Mission in Christ" (LCMC).

Bruce Kylo Memorial Fund - for ongoing landscaping & special outdoor projects.



Indoor Projects:

- Video & technology upgrades for online worship outreach.
- Interior maintenance - repair walls, paint, carpet, furnaces, etc.
- Sunday school materials and equipment.
- Chairlift repairs & possible upgrade.

In addition to the fundraising efforts of the Imagine What Could Be campaign, we are also going to begin a special effort to reach out to people in our community and welcome them to join us in worship. We plan to personally reach out to existing members with a warm invitation to become more involved in our mutual ministry - especially our younger families.

Create Rainy Day fund for long-term parsonage and church unforeseen repairs and maintenance.

"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have..."

2 Corinthians 8:12

Smart Giving – Some Practical Ideas for Giving to Selbu Lutheran Church!

Priority Budgeting

Some people may choose to rearrange their priorities in order to give greater gifts to a Mission Forward fund appeal. Priority budgeting may lead to postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation home, etc. and applying the same monthly payments toward the Mission Forward fund appeal.

Re-Channeling a Present Expenditure

Many families have incurred short-term heavy expenditures for special needs such as when their children attend college. They learn during those years to budget their money so they can cover those expenditures. The same philosophy applies when budgeting money to support their church's vision.

Gifts of Unexpected Cash

A couple unexpectedly received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. They decided to give the entire inheritance to their church to expand their gift to the building project. Other people give their income tax refunds or stimulus funds. One woman gave 10% of her dad's inheritance to her church.

Gifts from Increases in Income

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

Gifts from Extra Work

One man was in the process of retiring when the church undertook a Mission Forward fund appeal. He secured a new part time job and gave the first three years of his retirement income to the church. Another woman worked an extra year beyond retirement and gave half of that income to the building project. One man agreed to work some overtime to help his church. A retired woman decided to work part-time at the library so she could give more.



“⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion... ⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. “
2 Corinthians 9: 5-7

Using Assets to Fund Gifts to Your Church – The Smart Choice.

The following is a brief list of gifting techniques which may be used. Many can be used together to structure a personal gifting plan. Since the Imagine What Could Be Campaign extends for three to five years, through the end of 2026, any of us who may wish to use “smart giving” ideas have plenty of time to work out the details.



Gifts of Appreciated Assets

A gift of investment assets which have appreciated in value is one of the most common gifting strategies.

Gifts of Stocks and Bonds

Funding charitable giving with appreciated stocks or bonds can be very advantageous to both the donor and the church. The donor will avoid paying any capital gains taxes while receiving a full value charitable deduction, and the church will receive a very liquid asset. To claim all these benefits, the stocks/bonds must be transferred to the church rather

than selling the stocks/bonds and donating the proceeds. If the donor desires to give “100 shares of XYZ stock,” he/she can choose to make the stock transfer immediately, or at any time over the 3-year campaign giving period.

Gifts of Appreciated Real and Personal Property

Many people possess assets that could make a good gift to their church. This is a discussion worth having.

Gifts of Real Estate

An unencumbered piece of real estate can be a wonderful gift.

Gifts of 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.

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 (and or spouse). This is an excellent way to convert a substantially appreciated asset into an income source for the donor.

Charitable Trusts

- 1) 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.
- 2) In a lead trust, assets are held in a trust. The trust distributes income to the charity until death (or defined event) causes the asset to be distributed to the donor’s estate or family.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (Using a Required Minimum Distribution - IRA)

If you are age 70½ or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. This additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket and may also reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, charitably inclined investors may want to consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Please contact your financial advisor, accountant or attorney for specific information regarding the more complex “Smart Giving” ideas.

Biblical Reflections for Giving

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

“...and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.”

We are a blessed people and it is from these blessing we return a portion to the work of our Lord who is the true owner of all that we are and all that we have.

LUKE 12:48

“...much is required from the person to whom much is given...”

Many of us have resources beyond annual incomes and we need to plan with creativity and generosity from total available resources. The key word to remember is PROPORTIONATE from total resources.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11(a)

“...you will be enriched in every way for (your) great generosity.”

People of faith are called to be caring and generous and are encouraged by promise after promise of reward for generous response.

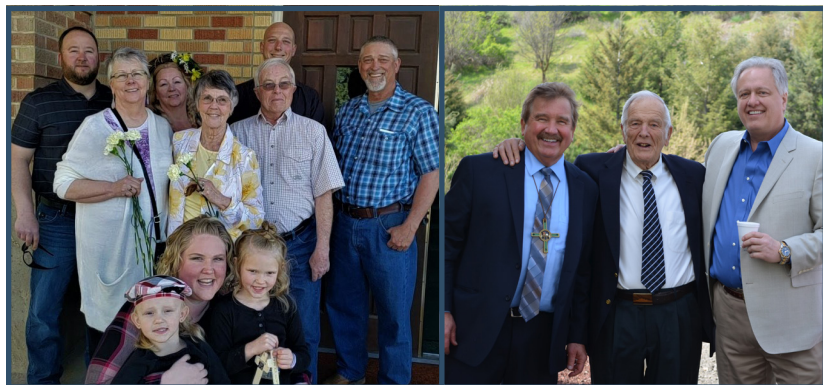
With this understanding of scriptural stewardship, we are asked to place ourselves on the Giving Chart. Please take time to study the pattern and prayerfully consider how the Lord is leading us, in this time of commitment. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in our faith through the biblical act of generosity. We begin by making an estimate of the size of gift that would be comfortable to us – something that we know that we could easily work into our budget. Then pray some more and, a day or two later, write down a number that would be our “Wow!” gift – something that would take us out of our comfort zone and would take great faith.

As we pray about our gifts, we might want to try something that one pastor shared with a member who had asked him how much to give: “Just keep writing down different amounts until the number you see on the paper brings you great joy. THAT is the amount to give!”

Ultimately, our level of giving is between us and our Lord; however, we make our commitment with RESOURCEFULNESS, with JOY, and with CELEBRATION! This is such an important time for all of us at Selbu. As each one of us gives as we are able, we will accomplish something great together. Imagine What Could Be...

Remember, equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.





“For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have...”
2 Corinthians 8:12



“Imagine What Could Be!” - A Three to Five Year Mission Forward Campaign

This campaign will include contributions over and above what we currently give to the church.

Our Goal: Generous Giving from all of us! Please use the chart below to challenge yourself to generous giving.

ANNUAL AMOUNT	3-YEAR TOTAL	MONTHLY AMOUNT	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$10,000	\$30,000 or greater	\$100	\$3,600
\$5,000	\$15,000 or greater	\$75	\$2,700
\$1,000	\$3,000 or greater	\$50	\$1,800
\$500	\$1,500 or greater	\$25	\$900

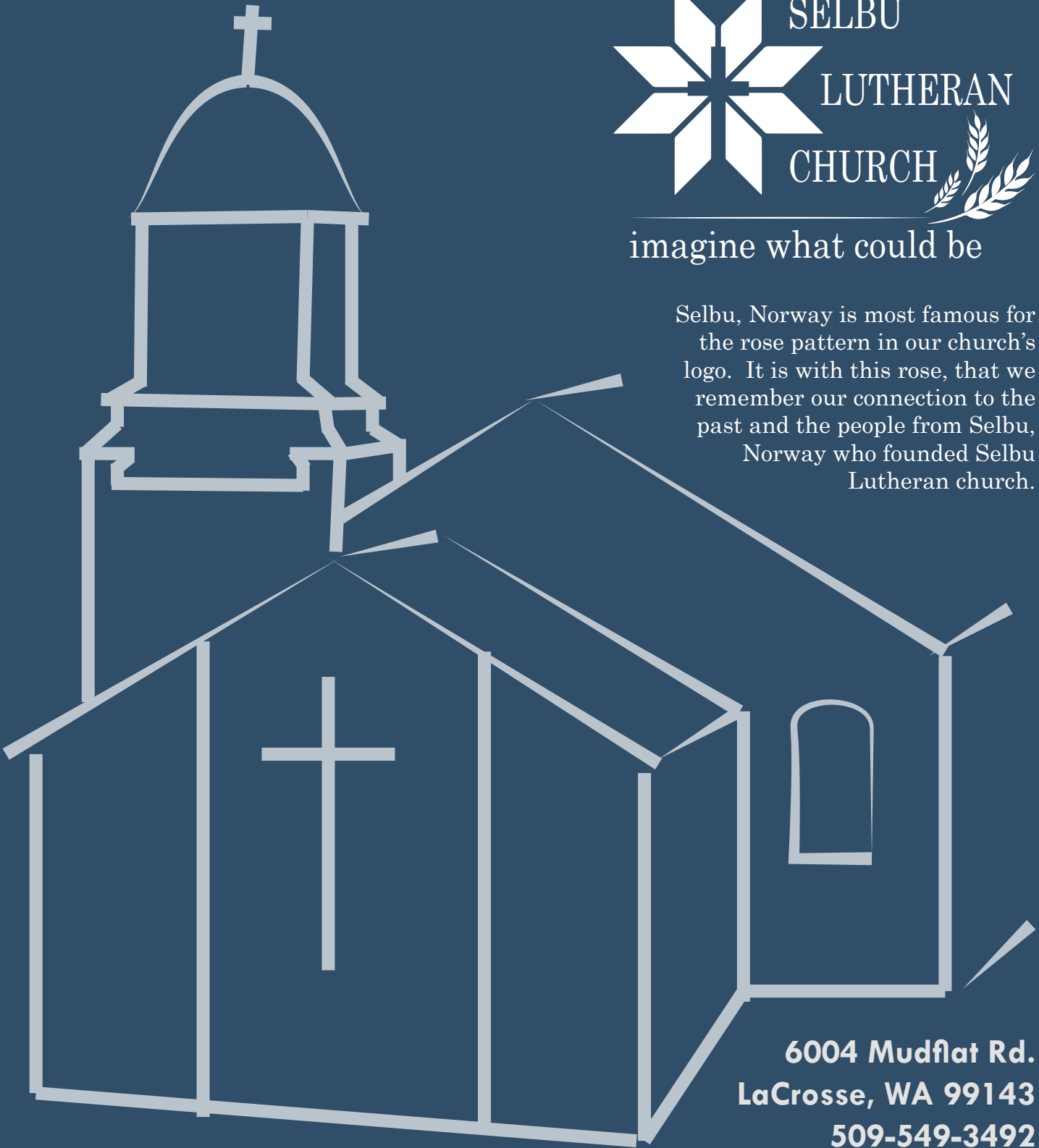
WEEKLY AMOUNT	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$20	\$3,120
\$15	\$2,340
\$10	\$1,560
\$5	\$780





imagine what could be

Selbu, Norway is most famous for the rose pattern in our church's logo. It is with this rose, that we remember our connection to the past and the people from Selbu, Norway who founded Selbu Lutheran church.



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