

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## 1. Why is Woodlands Lutheran church undertaking the Look What God Is Doing (LWGID) Campaign at this time?

God has richly blessed Woodlands for the past 35 years as a church and 30 years as an ELC with many people offering their gifts and their lives to the Lord's service. We are especially proud of how God has increased our Woodlands Early Learning Center over the past three years. Our classroom waiting lists have grown, and frankly our school has outgrown its current space used to share with our children and their families about Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We want to invite you to join us, your pastors, and our families, in our personal decisions to give an additional gift, above and beyond our regular tithe, to build a new Early Learning Center (ELC), remodel our current Disciples Hall, for our church ministries, and complete a few necessary projects in our church building. It is a time of great possibility for our congregation and school for the future of His mission taking place through Woodlands.

## 2. What has been done to ensure that we are, in fact, listening to God's will for Woodlands?

Through seeking answers in God's Word; giving consideration to the congregation's mission, vision, and values; adding up the growing number of families wishing to enroll their children in our ELC; and the obvious growth in the area's demographics, our Voters' Assembly after putting the matter before God into prayer, voted to undertake this ministry expansion campaign. God continues to use Woodlands Lutheran Church (WLC) and ELC to connect people to Jesus...

## 3. What is the overall goal for the campaign?

Jesus states our goal is to make disciples. Eternal life is the goal. "Connecting People to Jesus," so they understand the saving message of Christ is our number one goal. To bring us more in alignment with God's mission for us, we have chosen a LWGID financial goal of \$1.65 million. With your support we can fulfill the mission of Christ and connect people, including ELC children and their families, to Jesus.

## 4. What is the timeline for the LWGID Campaign?

Campaign Launch - April 7th

Commitment Sunday - June 2nd

First Gifts - June 16th

Beginning of LWGID - July 2024

Completion of LWGID - July 2027

## 5. When is the new ELC expected to open?

August of 2026

## 6. Is the LWGID Campaign just for the construction of a new ELC, or will some funds be used for other purposes?

Construction of a new Early Learning Center.  
Disciples Hall renovation.  
Completion of several projects in our church building.

## 7. Will our ELC families be invited to participate in our LWGID Campaign?

Yes

## 8. How do we expect the LWGID Campaign to impact our ability to connect people to Jesus, and our children and families to Jesus?

Investing in a new ELC will allow us to expand from 110 students to 150 students. Also, our plan is to use the new ELC classrooms on Sundays for Sunday School space for the growing number of children who are joining our congregation along with their parents. Once the new school is operational, renovations of existing facilities will allow us to make better use of the space in Disciples Hall to expand our ability to host larger congregational functions, increase our ability to hold Sunday Adult Bible Class and a place for the youth to call their own space by using an existing classroom to be a youth room.

## 9. How will we be kept up to date on the progress of this ministry expansion campaign?

Individual quarterly reports will be provided by the Campaign Fulfillment Coordinator and Campaign Staff. In addition to the quarterly reports, a 'barometer' of the campaigns fiscal progress will be on display and updated weekly to keep our congregation updated.

## 10. What happens if we are unable to meet our LWGID Campaign goal?

We have every confidence that God will move among us in a mighty way. However, if the goal of our 1.65-million-dollars LWGID is not met, it would mean that we would need to incur a higher debt level from Lutheran Church Extension Fund, who is our lender, to complete the projects.

## 11. What if we surpass our LWGID Campaign goal?

Any funds raised above our 1.65-million-dollar LWGID goal will mean that we would incur a lower debt level from Lutheran Church Extension Fund, who is our lender, to complete the projects.

## 12. When will giving to the campaign actually begin? What is the projected end of the campaign?

First Gifts will be received on June 16th.

The first of the 36-month “tithe” will begin July of 2024.

The last of the 36-month “tithe” will conclude July of 2027.

## 13. Why is it so important that all members participate in the LWGID Campaign?

Because the strength and success of any Ministry Expansion Campaign like LWGID, is based upon the whole body of Christ participating. While the large size goal of 1.65-million-dollars is a God-sized goal, the Apostle Paul, knowing that God-sized goals can be accomplished says this in Ephesians 3:20-21, *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

## 14. Based on our giving, what will be the sequence of ministry expansion enhancements?

The ELC will be completed first so the school can move to the new building. Once the school is completed, the Disciples Hall renovation will begin along with the projects at the church.

## 15. What is the hoped-for timeline for “breaking ground” and for construction to begin?

Late spring/early summer of 2025.

## 16. What is the hoped-for timeline for construction to be completed?

Summer of 2026

## 17. How will the construction affect our day-to-day ministry of the church and school?

The sequence of construction will be managed to limit, as much as possible, the impact to our day-to-day ministry. Some construction will have little to no impact. Some construction will have some impact; however, sequence will be important. For example, completing the new ELC before remodeling Disciples Hall will allow us to continue normally on our campus. No doubt, there will be days when disruptions will occur, but prayerfully they will be held to a minimum.

## 18. Will there be possible changes to the current schematics provided by the architecture firm?

There will always need to be architectural and construction freedoms to make necessary changes to design and construction based upon many factors. Not the least of which would be permitting and code changes. For instance, one example would be, the original design of the new ELC building showed 12 classrooms. The updated design has 10 classrooms with a workroom and office space added. However, we will still have the capacity for 12 classrooms when needed for expansion purposes.

## 19. Is my campaign commitment above and beyond my regular giving?

Yes. The LWGID Campaign is a three-year commitment to contribute over and above your regular giving/tithe. All the “normal” ministries of the church will need continued support over the next three years.

## 20. What if my income fluctuates? What if I need to cut back on my pledge, or should I cut back on my regular giving/tithe?

It is understood that circumstances can change in life. You are making a pledge to this campaign, which can be adjusted if necessary. If a choice must be made, cut back on your pledge – not on your regular giving/tithe.

## 21. I have been trying to increase my giving annually. Should I put that increase towards my commitment, or continue to increase my regular giving?

We all know that the Lord encourages generosity in 1 Corinthians 9:6-8 which says, *“Remember this: 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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

However, your giving is between you and the Lord because you and He are the only ones who know how He has blessed your giving capabilities. Remember, it is impossible to out give God!

## 22. Who is LCEF? Why are they involved with the campaign? Has the LCEF fundraising consultant assessed the financial capability of the Woodlands congregation?

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Investors make it possible for LCEF to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

LCEF forecasts a congregation's giving for a ministry expansion campaign. These estimates are based on (among other things) the yearly budget of a congregation. Appropriate steps have been and will continue to be taken to ensure we are aiming at the correct financial goal under the advisement of our LCEF consultant.

### 23. What can I do to help?

Any or all of the following:

1. Commit to volunteer regularly in support of Woodland's ministries, including the LWGID ministry expansion campaign.
2. Commit to pray regularly for Woodland's ministries and the LWGID ministry expansion campaign.
3. Commit to give an over and above gift to the LWGID ministry expansion campaign.

### 24. What are some of the church projects that are planned in addition to the new ELC and Disciples Hall renovation?

There are two major church projects planned as part of the renovations. The first is putting a new roof on the Sanctuary. The second project is fixing the window wall at the front of the Sanctuary. We will also be adding several more viewing monitors inside the Sanctuary.

### 25. Once the campaign goal is satisfactorily met, how will the remainder of the campaign project be funded and who will fund it?

After our goal of raising 1.65 million dollars over a three-year period has been met, the remaining cost of the project will be funded with a LCEF loan that will become part of the ELC Business Plan.

### 26. Can an appeal be made to businesses and private companies to contribute to our campaign?

Absolutely. Any and all donations to the MEC are welcome.

### 27. What are the plans for the house (annex) on church property?

At this time, no decision has been made on the future of the annex. It will continue to be utilized for church-related functions.

### 28. Is there a long-term goal in mind with the Ministry Expansion Campaign (MEC)?

Yes, the ELC and renovations are only the first phase of Woodlands MEC. Future plans include a grade school (phase II) and a gymnasium (phase III) in the coming years.

### 29. "Has there been any conversation regarding the expansion of our sanctuary?"

No, not at this time.