



The Case for Building Improvements: Mission, Ministry, Stewardship

For more than 100 years, Mount Olive has served as a place where God's Word is proclaimed and the sacraments are celebrated. Now, with a vision to enhance our hospitality, we undertake an ambitious capital appeal to fund critical improvements to our beautiful church building – and thereby strengthen our ability to carry out our mission.

The proposed improvements will enable us to provide a more welcoming place, one that is not only accessible to all and comfortable year round, but that also speaks to our commitment to care for God's earth. In short, through the improvements, we hope to make our home a more useful tool in the ministries to which we are called.

Through our capital appeal, aptly named **A Bold Step Forward**, we hope to raise funds needed to:

- Renovate the Parish House entrance. The vision is to make our “red door” entrance fully accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), protect those who use the entrance from rain and snow with an exterior canopy and install a communications and remote unlocking system to promote security and facilitate access. (More information: Q&A North Entrance).
- Install a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system to heat and cool the sanctuary and undercroft. The proposal is to use geothermal technology to generate high-efficiency heating, air conditioning and ventilation – and a healthier, safer, more comfortable space for worship and activities. Geothermal, which enables using the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool, also will dramatically reduce our carbon-footprint. Another reason for a new system now: our 85-year-old boilers are nearing the end of their expected service. (More information: Q&A HVAC)
- Improve our south parking lot, including sidewalk repair, the addition of exterior lighting, signage and new landscaping – all to enhance the welcome to our church while also providing for safety. (More information: Q&A Parking Lot & Grounds)
- Ensure that our organ functions fully by repairing large front pipes, which are collapsing and becoming unplayable.

We have set a goal of \$1.7 million to be raised over three years. This amount also includes nearly \$220,000 still outstanding for last year's critical repairs to the roof, bricks and windows. (More information: Q&A Campaign and Improvements)

Our goal is bold, but it is also realistic. Longtime members remind us that Mount Olive has set big goals before – and that Mount Olive has always found a way to do what was needed. We believe that spirit continues today. Last fall's member survey found strong support for our ministries of worship, music and community outreach, as well as for improvements that will make our building more accessible, welcoming and energy efficient.

First and foremost, A Bold Step Forward is about improvements that will help enhance our welcome and advance our mission. However, it also provides an opportunity to grow in faith and discipleship as we give thanks for the many ways God has blessed us – individually, and as a congregation – and as we challenge ourselves to share our blessings.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift or pledge to support A Bold Step Forward for Mount Olive.