

# Advent Lutheran Church

## Advent Life Ministry Center Capital Campaign

### Vision Statement

At the heart of our campus is one of the busiest and most exciting places in Boca Raton. On any given week you can walk in to our Fellowship Hall and see women sewing quilts to send to hospitals, teachers planning activities, seniors enjoying bible studies and movies, students reading and singing, staff members praying for church members, a men's group sharing breakfast, an Indian Christian church worshipping in Telagu, young women in an overflowing A.A. meeting, a messianic rabbi teaching scripture, a chili cook off for charity, children learning bible stories, a praise band praising and a choir practicing four-part harmony. The increase in our ministry after the renovation of our fellowship hall has been a blessing. Together we truly made "Space for Grace." But now is the time we need to make "More Space for More Grace!"

In 2020, Advent will be celebrating 60 years of ministry in Boca Raton, Florida. As this community has grown from a sleepy resort town to a vibrant city, Advent has blossomed from a small congregation into a ministry that blesses people from "infancy through eternity." The modest church building where this all began is now surrounded by a 14 acre campus with two schools, a senior living center and sanctuary. It has served us well all these years but we have simply outgrown it! The goal of this project is to replace the Fellowship Hall/Library building with an Advent Life Ministry Center that will allow us to continue to grow as a ministry and better serve this community.

While it is good sign of our health and vitality that we have run out of room it is not good for our mission and ministry. The current facility can only accommodate one group at a time, the kitchen is far too small for the fellowship events we now host, the chapel is not adequate to our needs, and the attached school library is no longer sufficient for the changing demands of students. And we all know that our restrooms are not welcoming!

Imagine instead a new facility with a fellowship hall twice our current size that is capable of being divided to accommodate multiple activities! Close your eyes and see a media center for our school that is equipped to prepare them for the digital future. Think of the benefits of having a beautiful chapel where smaller worship services and funerals could be offered. Smell the aroma of fresh coffee brewing and muffins baking to be served Sunday mornings to our members and the rest of the week to our school parents and neighbors. Envision attractive space for our children and youth ministry, rooms for small group bible study, and, most important of all, gleaming new restrooms!

We believe that a new Advent Life Ministry Center is critical to advancing our ongoing purpose: "to share the love of Christ." More rooms for Bible studies and groups, as well as a beautiful new chapel will encourage our members to grow in their love of God. A larger hall for fellowship and special events will increase and enhance our opportunities to love each other. Multi-purpose space for campus ministries, school programs and community groups will facilitate our ability to love our neighbors. Additional offices and a community oriented cafe will help us better reach out to love the world.

The need for the Advent Life Ministry Center was foreseen by a strategic planning committee that met some 20 years ago. In their wisdom that gained approval from the city for such a new facility. Our new committee, in consultation with the pastors and Church Council, believe that

the time has come to move the plan forward. Our vision for the project involves replacing the former sanctuary with a two story building and creating a more welcoming entry into the courtyard. The estimate for this project would be 3.5 million dollars.

The Advent Life Ministry Center would have a dramatic archway linking our church courtyard with our school courtyard as a symbol of our unity. The first floor on one side of the arch would contain a newly designed chapel suitable for small weddings, funerals and services. On the other side of the arch would be a fellowship hall nearly twice as big as the current one, new restrooms and a matching kitchen/cafe. An elevator would lead to a second floor with meeting rooms, office space and a multi-media center for the school. The smaller buildings on the west and east would be demolished to give us welcoming entries into the courtyard.

Some may say that we cannot undertake such a project because our current ministries are always in need of our financial support. But this has always been true at Advent. Members with vision and commitment in the past took us from this one small building to one of the largest ministries in the community through their sacrifices and faithfulness. It is now our turn. With much prayer and consideration the pastor and leaders of this church believe that this is the time and we are people to provide a facility that will equip Advent's ministries to continue to grow and share the love of Christ.

We are ever mindful of the words of our Lord Jesus in Luke 14:28: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" To that end, we have decided to engage the services of Hewett Consulting to do a feasibility study for this project. John Hewett will be meeting with church leaders and members face to face. We will also be offering an online survey for feedback on the scope of the project and the level of support available. Take some time to pray about this opportunity to grow our ministry. Begin to think about how you can be a significant supporter of this vision. Share your enthusiasm with others. Remember that "faith is an adventure" as we begin this new adventure of faith.

Advent's vision is to share the love of Christ so that people will be saved by grace, transformed by love and sent to share that love with the world. Imagine all the people who will experience this through our ministry because of the Advent Life Ministry Center. Then let us not just imagine but instead work make that dream a reality. The future generations of people served by Advent will give thanks to God for what we do together now!