



ISAIAH 58:10

If you pour yourself out for the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Believing God

God is stirring.
Are you ready to
join the movement?



Light for the
Future

November 2024

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Gospel-Colored Glasses

Sunglasses are fun to pick out because they come in various shapes, sizes, and colors. And, of course, the glass tint is important, too. Snowboarder Shaun White carefully chooses his red-tinted goggles to help increase his visual depth and contrast on the slopes.

World-class golf pro Annika Sorenstam sports a polarized gray-based, blue-mirrored coated lens to reduce glare and enhance color perception on the course. Fisherman Stephen Forssell grabs his ice blue shades to help see the slightest movement of a fish. More than adding serious panache to their style, these different colored lenses help the pros see what they need to see.

Similarly, the colored lens of the "glasses" we wear impacts how we see the world. Before coming to Christ, we fail to appraise things spiritually (1 Corinthians 2:14). However, **Jesus changes everything!** *With Him*, we view the world with gospel-colored glasses "so that we may know the things freely given to us by God" (2:12).

Light for the Future (LTF) rallies Fox Valley Church to wear these uniquely gospel-colored glasses. Through them, we more clearly see the purpose of LTF. It is not ultimately about a building but about a God who loves people and placed us here to rescue those trapped

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FOX VALLEY
CHURCH

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in darkness. In the next five-to-ten years, thousands of women, men and children will flood into our neighborhoods. New homes will be built, and farmlands will disappear. God is preparing us; **we care because God cared first** (1 John 4:19).

To be sure, LFTF is a **“Red Sea Moment.”** As then, it wasn't merely about the generation that stood at the shore. It was for all future generations that God would bring into the “Promised Land” of which we are a part!

This moment is not merely about us. It is about what God is doing now and in years to come, rescuing people from the darkness of this world.



Let's be clear and specific about the implications. If you have a seat on Sunday morning, it is because someone made room for you. Said differently, there were seats available for Lukas Thorsen and his family (read Lukas' story in this newsletter) because the heart of Fox Valley Church is to put others' interests ahead of our own. This has been happening for over 45 years—from the move out of the American Legion to Jacobs to our first building! Here's what's at stake with LFTF: ***Only as we wear gospel-colored glasses at our own "shore" will we take bold, sacrificial steps to advance His kingdom work.***

Taking these necessary, bold, and sacrificial steps takes a courageous faith in God and His promises. As we see more clearly, we are moved to sacrifice, give, and lay down our lives for Jesus' work in our midst. No doubt, the task before us is daunting, but as it was once said, “Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.”

-Pastor Tom

From Darkness To Light



God is working powerfully among the students at Fox Valley Church. In an age where young people are often portrayed as disconnected from faith, we're witnessing something extraordinary: small groups of students diving deep into God's Word, stepping into leadership roles, and inviting their friends in unprecedented numbers.

Lukas' story, shared below, is just one example of how God is moving. His journey from darkness to light reflects the transformative work happening in many students at Fox Valley Church, where tweens and teens are discovering the life-changing power of the Gospel.

“I am Lukas Thorsen. I'm in 9th grade and I got baptized at Fox Valley Church in August.”

BEFORE: TRAPPED IN SIN

Lukas lives in a Christian home and heard all the things kids hear about God and faith, but admitted ignoring anything to do with Christianity until recently. He shared, “I was a very bad kid in middle school. I fell into sin in various ways... anger, lust, and disobedience.” **Even at a young age, Lukas knew he was trapped by his sin.**

THE TURNING POINT: ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

Then something drew Lukas to a John MacArthur sermon on YouTube. As he watched, Lukas heard the Gospel message and believed! “It was so contradictory to my life beforehand.” Then, in January 2023, while on vacation, Lukas started to read the Bible more seriously. He said, “I struggled with sin and instantly regretted it. [While on vacation] I went and prayed in the bathroom, repented of my sin, and gave my life to Jesus.”

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AFTER: TRANSFORMATION AT FOX VALLEY CHURCH

Before this time, Lukas didn't have a church. He used the Bible app, (YouVersion), to search for a church where he could attend with his family. That's when God led him to Fox Valley. "I brought my family, and we loved it!" Lukas and his family now attend Sunday services and he participates in the high school Student Ministry program.

Lukas shared, **"[At Fox Valley Church], I have been greatly encouraged by other believers, found many friends, and got baptized."** He added, "Although I still struggle with sin, I am now trying way harder to avoid it, but I also know that if I do sin, I don't have to be perfect because Jesus did that for me." Attending Fox Valley has helped transform his life.

A WELCOMING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEARCHING

Lukas believes the problem with many Christian youth environments is that often, the kids are there because they are forced to be there. But he's seen first-hand that although Fox Valley is not perfect, it is a good place for young kids, teenagers, and adults to grow in their faith. "The environment is awesome, everyone includes you, and on Wednesdays and Sundays, they are not afraid to go through serious topics and face challenges."

For those considering church, Lukas has this advice: "If you want to visit Fox Valley, we recommend it. It is a very welcoming place, you can sit in the front seats during the sermon and no one will judge you, and they are willing to help you grow in your faith...God has blessed me through finding Fox Valley Church and Westminster Christian School. He can solve your problems no matter how many puzzle pieces are missing."





\$3,076,312 Already Pledged!

Plus \$630,000 Cash Already In Fund

Fox Valley Church, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude, and we are thrilled to report that even before Light for the Future's official launch, generous men and women from our church family have already committed over \$3,076,312 in pledges to support the vision of Light for the Future! Additionally, we already have \$630,000 in cash set aside in the LFTF fund. This incredible show of faith and generosity clearly demonstrates that God is already at work, touching the hearts of our church family to participate in the transformation that's to come. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can participate by making your own pledge commitment. Together, we will make Fox Valley Church an epicenter of transformation, where hope is found and lives are changed by the power of the gospel. This is just the beginning—let's see what God has in store for the region surrounding Fox Valley Church!

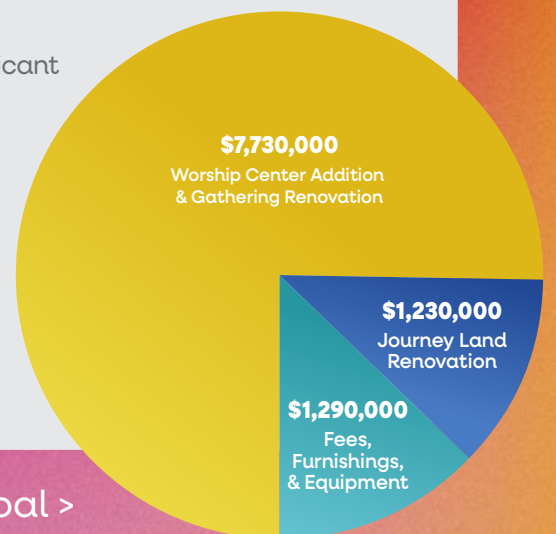


Making Room for God to Work

\$10,250,000 is a large and daunting number. We feel it, too, and we don't want to downplay the magnitude of what we're asking. Light for the Future is a big undertaking, both financially and logistically. However, we truly believe God is calling us to expand our reach and impact in powerful ways.

Just as God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites, we have faith that if this vision is aligned with His will, He has the power to provide. Our region is hungry for hope and purpose, and we believe God is calling us to provide a place where people can come and experience Him. The new worship center, Journey Land, and Student Ministry renovations are not about constructing impressive buildings—they are about creating spaces where lives can be transformed by the gospel.

We know funding Light for the Future will require a significant sacrifice from many. At the same time, we believe the eternal impact this can have is worth the investment. By expanding our capacity, we can welcome more people into our church family and see more people find healing, belonging, and new life in Christ. We're trusting that if this vision is from God, He will provide the resources needed to fulfill it.



\$10,250,000 Miracle Goal >

Prayerfully Consider Your Commitment

- ① **COVER THIS DECISION IN PRAYER** Ask God for wisdom and guidance on how He's asking you to steward the resources He has entrusted to you. If you are married, pray with your spouse.
- ② **DON'T RUSH YOUR DECISION** Give yourself time to seek God and listen for His voice. Need more information? Contact the church at info@foxvalleychurch.org, and we will connect you with someone who can answer your questions.
- ③ **DECIDE AND RESPOND** Once you've decided, return your completed commitment card to the drop box in the cafe by **December 8th**.
- ④ **CONTINUE TO PRAY** for others who are still considering how to get involved.
- ⑤ **SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM** and tell us what excites you most about Light for the Future by adding a colored block to the mural in the cafe!