

### **Restore 227: Opening Doors to the Future**

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit (Psalm 51:12)*

For nearly 20 years, our Worship Center at 227 East Rosemary Street has served as a sacred space to experience God's presence. We gather there to receive Word and Sacrament, but also to give: our prayers, our questions, our songs, our energy, and our joy. Christian worship is a collaborative process, and we, the disciples, are essential partners.

Every event that the Worship Center hosts- from Sunday and midweek services, to baptisms, weddings, funerals, concerts, guest lectures, and camps- connects us directly to Jesus and his mission. We gather in the Worship Center to be nourished through Word and Sacrament, and then we are sent into the world to live our faith in our daily lives. The Worship Center is a bridge between the holy past and the hopeful future of our faith. The reality about bridges is that they require reinforcement and upkeep. Our roof is damaged, leading to internal leaks. Our HVAC system, in continuous operation for 6,500+ days, is tired and begs for replacement. And our iconic red doors are deeply cracked, despite repeated attempts to repair them.

Thus, the Congregation Council announced and our congregation voted to approve the **Restore 227 Project**: a campaign to ensure that our sanctuary remains a safe and functional space for worship, fellowship, and outreach. The practical needs enumerated above are the core ask- but the vision does not stop there. We must think beyond our red doors, in alignment with our mission of **Loving God, Loving Neighbor**.

Our campaign also seeks to support **Camp Lutheridge**, with their 75th Anniversary campaign and with their recovery from Hurricane Helene. By investing in this vital ministry, we are continuing our commitment to nurture faith across all ages. Furthermore, recognizing the pain in our immediate community as the federal government slashes grants, social safety nets, and benevolent funding, a portion of the campaign proceeds will establish the **Restore Community Fund**. This flexible spending reserve, overseen by the pastors and Congregation Council, will offer measured relief to our most vulnerable neighbors.

How much will it cost and how long will the campaign last? At minimum, we need \$300,000. At best, your generosity and compassion will take us far beyond that number to boldly fund the outreach pillars of the campaign. We invite you to give over 22.7 months, through March 2027.

This endeavor is not intended to grow our bank account. It is an investment in our ability and commitment to live out Christ's love in courageous, joyful, prodigal big-heartedness. Together, we will open doors to the future, ensuring that Holy Trinity and Lutheran Campus Ministry remain a beacon of hope in Chapel Hill and beyond. Standing at the door of this opportunity and challenge, please prayerfully consider your next steps.