

realencouragement

A Ministry of Lakeshore Community Church

realencouragement.org

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S P E C I A L E D I T I O N

Imagine the "LC2"

"The Lord sparked the enthusiasm of... God's people. They came and began their work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God." (Haggai 1:14, NLT)

"Be sure to finish the work the Lord gave you." (Colossians 4:17, NCV)

It's not how you start, but how you finish that counts! We began our *Finishing Well* series with those words and appreciated their importance. God always finishes what He starts and if we want to be like Him, we do as well. That applies to the "*Finishing The Work*" campaign because we long to finish the phase-one campus plan by building the *Lakeshore Community Center (LC2)* next year.

If we begin next Spring, we will move into the LC2 by next Fall! Our facility will increase from 21,400 to 40,000 square feet and meet so many more needs than we can today.

Can you imagine it? I can see **our children** having needed room to play and grow. I can visualize **our church** enjoying a place that can service virtually every event possible until we grow to about 2,000 people in size (that's over double our current size). I can envision **our community** being impacted by our expanded facility in countless new ways. And I can dream about **the Great Commission** impacting many hundreds of lives for the better as we reach Rochester for Christ.

I wonder if you've truly imagined the impact the LC2 will have on our children, our community, our own church family, and (most importantly) on spreading God's fame to more people in desperate need of Him?

"*Finishing The Work*" is our chance to advance the ministry of the church in ways that will help us more deeply honor God. How? God will be honored by the increasing number of lives we can impact and the higher quality ministry we can provide to everyone who enters our doors.

As we reach the climax of our campaign, I hope that each of you will reflect on the powerful opportunity we all have. As we each focus on our part, let me share a few ways to prepare for this opportunity to honor God:

- 1) **Pray passionately.** Continue to spend time seeking God's will, asking Him: "Lord, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will for Lakeshore?"
- 2) **Consider carefully.** Reflect on all that God has shown you through the *FTW Brochure* and the Sunday services, then bring it all together as you hold your family conference using your *Family Conference Guide* (this was given out at *FTW* meetings and will be given out at the November 16th service).
- 3) **Give generously.** Nothing comes close to the reward of giving to God. Jesus said that it brings us great reward, both in this life and in the life to come.

Remember, we can begin the *Lakeshore Community Center* in just a few short months if everyone one of us makes an equal sacrifice to God.

Thanks in advance for your commitment to God through Lakeshore,

Warmly—
Pastor Vince



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The Commitment Phase of FTW

How Does The Commitment Phase of "Finishing The Work" Work?

Finishing The Work is drawing near its end, and with it comes a time for everyone who calls Lakeshore their home to consider how they will use their time, talents and treasure in the days ahead. It will be a time for each of us to decide how God would want to use our lives to invest in reaching ever-increasing numbers of people with the love of God.

But how does it work? Here is a timeline of final "*Finishing The Work*" events and services:

On Saturday, November 15 we will hold our "FTW" prayer event. You can sign up for a one hour slot at church or by calling the church office.

On Sunday, November 16 during both services, we will explain how to have a "family conference" and provide a guide to help you in the process. We will also hold our final "*FTW*" *Vision Meetings* for those who didn't attend one after both the 9am and 11am services.

On Sunday, November 23 we will hold our All-church Commitment service. This will serve as the climax of the campaign. It will be an opportunity for everyone at Lakeshore to come together and celebrate the way God has worked in our lives, to appreciate His voluminous blessings bestowed on us, and to come together as a "family". It is an opportunity for all of us to make our 3-year financial commitment to the campaign by turning in a commitment card. (NOTE: If you are unable to attend, but would like to be committed financially to "*FTW*," we request that you mail your card to the church by November 23 (LCC, 3651 Latta Road, Rochester, NY 14612).

On Sunday, November 30 we begin a new series, "Hip Hope," that will help us understand how God designed His hope to lift us up in a world that often gets us down. Anyone who hasn't turned in a commitment card is encouraged to do so at this service.

On Sunday, December 7 we will announce the total amount pledged to "*FTW*" and celebrate. People are encouraged to turn in their up-front (one-time) "*FTW*" gift at this service and then begin monthly giving in January 2009. As always, all individual giving will be kept confidential.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office or Campaign Directors Tom and Meredith Saluzzo.

The Right Tool

A couple of years ago my mother asked me to stop over and replace a bathroom faucet. She said she couldn't figure out how to remove the old one. I grabbed a bunch of tools and headed back to Buffalo that weekend to find I couldn't get the old faucet out either. I didn't have the right tool. Luckily for me, Home Depot carried the basin wrench I needed.

Often we are limited in what we can do by the tools we have. How effective would a roofer be without a nail gun, or a carpenter without a table saw? The right tool can make our job easier, the results better, and the possibilities endless.

It is no different at Lakeshore. We are limited by the tools we have. I get excited when I think about the effects we can have in our church, in our community, and with our children with this new tool God has planned for us, the Lakeshore Community Center.

Would a table saw be effective if you didn't have a blade? How about a nail gun without any nails? The *Finishing The Work* campaign is important because it will make our tool useful and I am already dreaming of how my family and I will use this tool to turn the indifferent into difference makers for Christ. Have you started dreaming about your new tool yet?

Tom Saluzzo



Creative Ways To Give

Eleven creative ways to give to the campaign (without taking a second job)

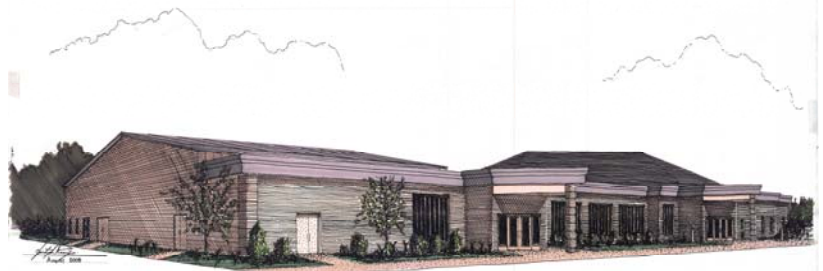
Many people hear a phrase “equal sacrifice, not equal giving” and say, “If they only knew how little extra money I have,” or “I’m giving all I can, I can’t give any more,” or “I’m single, going to school, I’m in debt up to my ears, I can’t give much,” or “I’m a single parent and I have a hard time paying bills and feeding the kids. There’s no way I can give to the campaign.”

We understand and empathize with you. That’s why we have come up with a list of some creative ways to give that you may have overlooked. Each one requires sacrifice on your part, but as King David said, “I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!”

You may want to combine one or more of these ideas to either establish or increase your commitment to the campaign. The list may inspire to think of other creative ways to give to the campaign.

- 1) Become a coupon clipper!**
- 2) Skip one meal as a family each week!**
- 3) Give up a costly habit!**
- 4) Commit your income tax refund check for the next three years!**
- 5) Commit an estimated salary raise to the Lord!**
- 6) Put off or delay a major discretionary purchase!**
- 7) Adjust your vacation agenda!**
- 8) Make a “water only” commitment at restaurants!**
- 9) Wait for a movie to come out on DVD!**
- 10) Cut back or eliminate cable and satellite TV!**
- 11) Continue a bill payment that will be paid off soon as your campaign gift!**

These are just a few ideas that can turn a \$1,500 commitment into \$3,000, a \$3,000 commitment into \$5,000, an \$8,000 commitment into \$12,000. And few things compare with the joy you’ll have in doing it for the cause of Christ and the campaign.



The Venture Capitalist

I work with many leading edge technology companies. Many of them were founded with funding from institutional investors known as Venture Capitalists (VC). This venture capital funding is provided to high potential, growth companies that are too small to raise their own capital. It is often difficult for companies that are just starting up to get funding from a VC; the investment is risky because many startups fail. So why do VCs invest in these companies? Because the payoff can be big.

We know from “The Treasure Principle,” by Randy Alcorn, that the first treasure principle key is that God owns everything, we are his money managers. In Matthew 19:14-30, the parable of the loaned money, Jesus teaches us to not waste what God has given us, but grow it. This applies to our finances (as well as our time and spiritual gifts).

We all know the troubles the financial markets have been through recently. Even though I continue to invest in my retirement through various means, my return on my investment has been dismal. Of course I’ll continue to invest in my retirement, but I’m excited about being a part of the FTW campaign because I know that my investment will help lead others to Christ. It’s a low risk, high reward investment. And that’s an investment any VC would snap up. Will you?

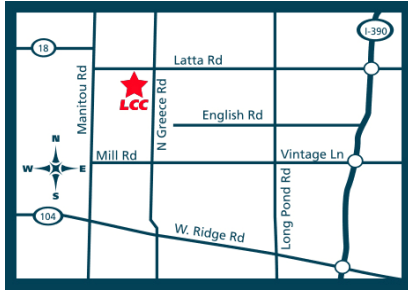
Tom Saluzzo



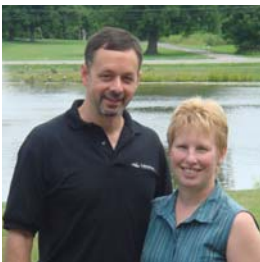
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Meet the "FTW" Team!



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Want an email update of all that's happening at Lakeshore? Sign up for "This Week At Lakeshore" via our website www.lakeshorechurch.org