

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ▶ Tell Me More About the Even More Project

### Q1 WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE EVEN MORE EXPANSION PROJECT?

A We are working on an \$8 million expansion to the main church campus and renovation of the Life Change Center building across Evans Ave. from the church. The proposed church expansion includes widening and lengthening the Worship Center to accommodate more than double the number of seats, opening up and enlarging the gathering space [the church foyer] and adding comfortable seating, adding a chapel that will be open for prayer and available for intimate events like weddings, funerals, Bible studies, etc., and renovating portions of the Children's Ministries area to allow for the rapid growth in this ministry.

The Life Change Center across Evans Ave. from the church opens soon with office space for some pastoral, ministry, and administrative staff, and gathering spaces for church and community events. Our long-term goal for the LCC is that it be a resource center for those needing help with their habits, hang-ups, and hurts.

### Q2 I'VE BEEN COMING TO CALVARY FOR ONLY FOR A FEW MONTHS. HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

A For several years the Elder Board has been praying and discussing how to accommodate Calvary's rapid growth. During that time, the board considered many options and solicited input from ministry leaders, lay leaders, staff, consultants, and the church community. The primary mission at all times has been Calvary's mission to change more lives forever through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2013 it became clear that expanding the present facility and acquiring and renovating the future Life Change Center across Evans Ave. from the church was the solution that would allow the church to best carry out that mission at this time. We began working with architectural consultants and started a process to gather input from the Calvary community at regular intervals.

In May 2016 we kicked off the Even More generosity initiative to give the Calvary community an opportunity to contribute directly to the project through prayer and financial gifts. We continue to receive contributions and commitments to the project.

### Q3 WHAT IS THE TOTAL EXPANSION COST?

A Our complete project, which includes everything seen on the floor plan plus the purchase and renovations to the Life Change Center, costs approximately \$8 million. As we often say around here, we dream BIG because we have a BIG God. We are also praying big. And we are asking God's people in the Calvary community to do the same while also considering how they might give sacrificially to see more lives changed here and around the world.



#### Q4 CAN WE AFFORD TO DO THIS PROJECT WHEN WE ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING OTHER NEEDS IN OUR CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD?

A The simple fact is that we cannot afford to NOT expand our campus. This is about people, not buildings. At present, overcrowding is hindering our outreach and our ability to serve and minister to those who need Jesus. We are making do with what we have in terms of space and facilities, but we don't want to settle for "good enough"! We want to welcome more people into our church and into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. As we do that, we will find we are even better equipped to meet the needs we have already taken responsibility for meeting.

## ▶ Tell Me More About How the Project is Funded

#### Q5 HOW IS THE EXPANSION PROJECT BEING FUNDED?

A A generosity initiative in early summer of 2016 welcomed people in the Calvary community to commit to the project. Those initial commitments were to be met during a 3-year period (2016-2018).

We continue to receive new commitments and individual gifts. The current total is at [calvaryweb.net/evenmore](http://calvaryweb.net/evenmore).

#### Q6 WILL WE NEED TO BORROW MONEY? AND IF SO, HOW WILL WE HANDLE OUR EXISTING DEBT LOAD PLUS NEW DEBT FOR THIS PROJECT?

A Yes. We continue to receive contributions to the Even More project and a mortgage will make up the difference.

We make monthly payments on a \$1.9 million loan for the previous construction of the Student Ministries Center and renovation of the gymnasium and nursery area. A healthy church can handle a debt load 2.5 times its annual income for the previous year, and our current debt load is well below that threshold. With the addition of a mortgage for the Even More project, the Elder Board is committed to keeping the church's debt load at or below 2.5 times the current annual income.

One of the top priorities of church leadership is a reasonable and effective plan to pay off Calvary's entire debt in 10 to 15 years.

## ▶ Tell Me How I Can Be Part of the Even More Project

#### Q7 I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVEN MORE PROJECT. HOW CAN I DO THAT?

A You can give online at [calvaryweb.net/give](http://calvaryweb.net/give), in the Sunday morning offering, or by sending a check to the church office at 1325 Evans Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383. Please ensure that your gift is clearly marked Even More or Building Fund.

If you wish to join those who have made a commitment to give a gift over a period of years, you can pick up a Commitment Card from the Calvary office or the Guest Services desk.

Non-cash gifts can be made to the Even More project by contacting Executive Pastor Al Lackey ([al@calvaryweb.net](mailto:al@calvaryweb.net); 219.462.4026).



## **Q8 HOW ARE GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS REPORTED AND RECORDED?**

A Gifts and sealed confidential Commitment Cards are received and recorded in a designated fund for the Even More project. The total dollar amount committed to the project is updated monthly on Calvary Link, the Sunday morning bulletin, and [calvaryweb.net/evenmore](http://calvaryweb.net/evenmore).

## **Q9 WILL MY GIFT OR COMMITMENT BE MADE PUBLIC?**

A No. Your gift or commitment is a private matter between you and God. We will not make personal commitments a matter of public knowledge at any time or in any form.

## **Q10 WILL I HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE MY COMMITMENT?**

A Certainly. This is a commitment between you and God. Should it become necessary for you to revise it, we do ask that you communicate the revision to our Executive Pastor, Al Lackey, so that the projected income for the project can be adjusted.

## **Q11 HOW DOES MY COMMITMENT CHANGE LIVES?**

A God will use the combined gifts we give as individuals and families to grow His church, extend a helping hand in the community, and spread the gospel farther than we could ever hope to do alone. In giving to His work, you are making a permanent investment in the lives of other people. Those gifts will flourish and bear fruit as God blesses the faithfulness of each of us.

## **Q12 I TITHE TO THE GENERAL FUND AND FEEL LIKE THAT IS ALL I CAN DO. AM I WRONG?**

A Only you and God can decide how much you can give. This project has been designed so that everyone can give something no matter the size of the gift. Our goal is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

## **Q13 CAN I DIVIDE MY PRESENT GIVING BETWEEN THE GENERAL FUND AND THE EVEN MORE PROJECT?**

A We encourage you to make your commitment or gift to Even More over and above any other giving to our church. The present ministries and missions we support still need to be fully funded. We ask that you not transfer current giving to Even More.

## **Q14 WILL GOD HELP ME MAKE A COMMITMENT WHICH SEEMS BEYOND MY MEANS RIGHT NOW?**

A Making a commitment that you know is unrealistic might be detrimental to you and to the church. However, sometimes a commitment that seems beyond reach is actually more doable than you originally thought. Priorities may need to be rearranged in order for you to participate at a sacrificial level. So while we don't want you to "bite off more than you can chew," so to speak, our church leaders and pastors will tell you from experience that something amazing happens when you make a commitment that requires some sacrifice on your part and trust God to help you meet it.



## ► What Happens During Construction?

### Q15 HOW LONG WILL CONSTRUCTION TAKE?

A We expect it could take 12 months to finish the main campus expansion. We will announce updates and post them at [calvaryweb.net/evenmore](https://calvaryweb.net/evenmore) as construction continues.

### Q16 WILL WE HAVE TO MEET OFFSITE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION?

A No. We have planned a phased construction and will not need to meet offsite. We may have to get creative with our facility usage though.

It is possible that adjustments will need to be made for mid-week ministries and meetings. We are already working with ministry leaders to make appropriate decisions for each mid-week group.

## ► I Have a Question About the Expanded Church Facility

### Q17 ARE THE FLOOR PLANS FINALIZED?

A While there may yet be minor changes, the floorplans presented at [calvaryweb.net/evenmore](https://calvaryweb.net/evenmore) are those being used by the construction company.

### Q18 IS THE FOOTPRINT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING CHANGING?

A In a few areas, yes. We will add on to the west end of the Worship Center (the side that faces Roosevelt Rd.) to expand the stage and add preparation and storage rooms behind. This also makes room for more people in the Worship Center. And we will add an addition to the south end of the building in the Children's Ministries area to increase the number of classrooms. There is sufficient ground to make both of these additions without taking up any of the parking lot.

The chapel represents the greatest change to the current footprint as an entirely new addition. It is an addition that not only expands our walls but also our capacity to serve our church community effectively.

### Q19 HOW WILL THE CHAPEL BE USED?

First and foremost it will be used for prayer. We believe the chapel makes an important statement about our need for God. It will be open all week long for people to come in to pray. Second, it will have several other purposes. It will be used for small worship gatherings, adult discipleship space (men, women, and other groups), overflow space on Sunday, small weddings and for other gatherings.

### Q20 HOW DID THE CHAPEL IDEA COME TO FRUITION?

The short answer is that it really is an amazing God story. The idea of a "side chapel" (the medieval expression) with multiple uses was mentioned early on in the project. Our senior pastor has seen many side chapels in his travels. While we were thinking about this, a family in our church approached us and asked, "Have you ever thought of adding a chapel to the project? We would like to help make that happen if you feel this fits into the project." We knew right then that God was doing something special.



### **Q21 WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW?**

A The new design of our Worship Center would obscure the view of our current stained glass window even as it allows for more seating. Therefore, the plan is to preserve the window by placing it in the new chapel. Our designers are working on an artistic feature for the Worship Center that will replace the stained glass window and help us remember our past while enhancing our worship experience.

### **Q22 HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL WE HAVE ROOM FOR ON SUNDAY MORNING AFTER THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE?**

A The expanded Worship Center will have 800 seats, more than double our current number.

### **Q23 IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE COMING TO THE CHURCH, HOW WILL WE ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL CARS IN THE PARKING LOT?**

A Our parking situation is actually quite good for a church of our size. We have an excellent relationship with T. J. Middle School next door and so have complete access to their stadium parking lot on Sunday mornings. There is plenty of room there for additional parking. In addition, the Life Change Center has 70 parking spots.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **Q24 WHAT HAPPENS IF WE GROW BEYOND 3000 PEOPLE ATTENDING ON SUNDAY MORNING?**

A The Elder Board is thinking and planning 5 to 7 years ahead based on our current and projected rate of growth. Honestly, it's unwise to think much further than that. The current expansion project will meet our immediate and future needs for some time. Beyond that, we have time to consider the best next step, whether that is planting a church in a nearby community, developing a multi-site or video venue strategy, or creating another solution that welcomes more people whose lives are changed forever by a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **Q25 I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

A You can email [evenmore@calvaryweb.net](mailto:evenmore@calvaryweb.net).

