



*"In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

1 Timothy 6:19

**HAVE QUESTIONS** or need to meet to discuss participation? Would you like to have a presentation at your church? Call Ray or Andrea at 888.225.2111 or contact your Circuit Coordinator.



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## It's About You! By Rev. Micheal Kroll

What a blessing! What an opportunity! Just when our congregation was going through a sort of downturn with younger families moving on for better job opportunities, with families on fixed and investment incomes finding themselves challenged in many ways, with an unemployment rate of 16+ percent and the congregation's ministries reflecting all of this. With all of this, what a God send is *The Future is Now*.

Check out Malachi 3:10. Our God says "test me." (And He is specifically talking here about returning to Him tithes and offerings) God says "test me and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it." You see it's all about you. Giving in the service of the Lord is never about parting with precious resources that need to be carefully rationed. Rather it is about getting out of the way of God letting loose the floodgates of heaven in your and your congregation's life.

When we were first presented with the opportunity to participate in *The Future is Now* our response was "how in times like these can anyone ask more of us?" That was until we started thinking instead along the lines of "in times like these how is God showing us the way?"

We are doing two things. We are giving every household the opportunity to open their lives to God's blessings by asking each of them (if they are able) to pledge \$5, \$10 or so per year per household or member for the next five years. Think

about how little that is—one Starbucks and desert per year?

Also, each year for the next five years, the youth, women, and men groups will take turns hosting Sunday meals, with a free will offering taken for *The Future is Now*. The exciting part is that when it's the youth's turn they will educate themselves and the congregation where church workers come from and how to become one yourself. The women, as part of the LWML, will present information on LCMS World Mission and the men will educate us on how new congregations are needed and are formed.

**I hope you can see all this isn't a matter of giving, it is a matter of getting.** There is no way that after this five year cycle we won't be a better educated, a better informed, and a more blessed congregation in every way.

I pray that if you haven't yet decided to take advantage of this opportunity for yourself and your congregation, when you do, you will be blessed—God promise, in Jesus name.

Rev. Micheal Kroll, Pastor  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Whitehall, Michigan

### Progress to Date ...

District	\$3,514,000
National	\$49,400,000

### Congregation Highlights

We thank Trinity, Muskegon; Heart of the Shepherd, Howell; St. Paul, Caro; and Our Savior, Scottville for recently indicating their participation in *The Future is Now* campaign.

Does your congregation's suggested goal seem too high to obtain? Break it down.

How much would each family have to contribute a month (above regular offerings) for five years in order for your congregation to reach its goal? From that standpoint, your goal may seem very obtainable. Contact Andrea or Ray to find out other ways you can intentionally participate.