**Pastor Talking Points – Leading a Giving Effort**

Because of the uniqueness of the position and significance of his responsibility, few people influence the success of a funding appeal more than the pastor does. He sculpts the type of Christ-centered program conducted, thereby greatly influencing the decisions made by God’s people. The pastor gets to create a positive Gospel-focused atmosphere for the appeal that includes confidence, optimism, and encouragement in God’s promises. His responsibility is to stress the spiritual goals of the appeal and to challenge God’s people to grow in their faith.

The pastor is also the gatekeeper when it comes to communicating the rationale for the entire funding appeal effort. He is in the best position to communicate clearly the need for the project. **The benefits of Christian education should be voiced as often as possible**. The major benefit of secondary Christian education is that God’s Word impacts the faith of young people. The Word powerfully shapes and fortifies the faith of adolescents during these highly impressionable years.

As a team working together, we want to intentionally avoid the mistake of not communicating enough. Here is where we need your help! **Communicate often** with your people the vision of what Great Plains Lutheran High School is about – fortifying young people’s faith-lives because God’s Word is shaping hearts! Positively encourage God’s people to say, “Yes,” to their participation in fund appeal teams and activities. Communicate **through announcements, sermons, group and committee meetings, social gatherings and individual conversations**. A pastor’s personal influence can do a great deal. Multiple well-placed words from the pastor can really get the message out. Remember also to plant positive seeds!

We anticipate wonderful blessings from the *United in Praise* campaign. We trust that you will **help us not only by inviting but also by asking** God’s people to participate.

The designed material from GPLHS communicates a need and message. It is important for the disciples of Jesus to have both their hearts and minds engaged during this process. The heart, motivated by the sweet Gospel of free salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, does the moving. “Asking” engages the mind and aids the giver in thinking. Again, this is where we need your assistance. Our GPLHS Association pastors will have a prime opportunity to use one or more of the following (or similar) statements multiple times during the coming weeks:

“GPLHS is an important/vital ministry for our youth. I encourage you to consider a gift.”

“I support GPLHS in its building expansion endeavor. It is a worthwhile project. Please consider supporting this effort with a gift.”

“I’ve seen firsthand some of the great things God is doing at GPL for our association’s youth. God’s Word is powerfully impacting souls and having a lasting affect. Your gifts to this ministry aid the effort in touching lives with the Gospel. Please consider a gift for GPL’s United in Praise campaign.”

“You know how great an impact a positive influence can have on people. GPL is a positive influence in the lives of our young people. I invite you to consider a gift supporting the United in Praise campaign.”

“Whenever a Christian gives in faith and love for the Savior it’s a good thing in God’s eyes. Each of us has an opportunity over the next few weeks to do such a good thing. Please consider a special gift in support of Christian education for GPL and its United in Praise campaign.”