

Matthew 19:26 NIV – Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

NRSV - But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

CEV - Jesus looked straight at them and said, “There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything.”

God can do anything!

The day has come! It is official. On Sunday, June 20, 2010 the congregation voted to build a new fellowship hall/activity center using one of the two construction bids that were presented.

We have stepped out in faith. It is not easy. We do not have all the money in hand. But we have prayed and prayed, and we do believe that this building is God’s plan for us, and that God will provide.

It seemed impossible that we might receive capital stewardship campaign commitments in excess of \$670,000, yet that is what has happened. It seemed impossible that we might qualify for an \$800,000 loan, yet the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA approved that figure, and is willing to loan us more if need be.

In Matthew 19, Jesus is responding to a question asked by his closest disciples. If it is harder for a rich man to enter heaven,

and riches or works won’t by you into heaven, “Then who can be saved?”

For Jesus, the answer is always God. For believers, God is the subject of every sentence, and every verb describes God’s activity. With God, even salvation is possible. And not just possible, but then it is accomplished through Jesus and his death on the cross.

We are not bound by the world’s definition of bad economic times. God always provides the resources for God’s mission to be accomplished.

If God can accomplish that great work of salvation, then a building project is a small matter. It is a big deal for us, but a small thing for God. Facing Goliath was a big deal for David, but a small thing for God. We give God the credit and we give God the praise. It is God’s work, it is not our work. This project will be a success, because God is with us. This building will be a visible witness of the mission of God for the church. We are not bound by the world’s definition of bad economic times. God always provides the resources for God’s mission to be accomplished.

God has already spoken to the hearts of members and non-members, who are sacrificially giving out of their abundance and even out of their scarcity. God will continue to speak to

the hearts of others, in the coming months and years. God has been working for years, blessing individuals in order that they might be a blessing in this project. Some of these gifts we already know about. Others are yet to come, but God knows. We take no credit. God gets all credit, all honor, all praise. “There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything.”

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On Sunday, July 4th we will celebrate with a Groundbreaking Ceremony. We will hold our morning worship service outside, and the groundbreaking will be a part of that service. Everyone, adults and children, are invited to bring a shovel, spade, or trowel and participate in the service when it is time to turn over the soil. Dress is casual and there is a covered dish picnic meal afterward.

Construction will start soon after, and we will all need to remain patient and flexible as we work and worship around a construction site. No doubt our excitement will build as the building grows higher.

We hope to be under roof before winter sets in. At some point, new and existing buildings will be connected, causing a bigger

mess for a time. By this time next year, we could very well have had our Building Dedication service!

**“With God all things are possible.”
Without God, nothing is possible.**

In the midst of all this, God continues to make other mission and ministry possible. We still send our youth to faith formation events and support them financially. We still have Vacation Bible School. We still run the Verona Community Food Pantry one Tuesday night a month. Our boys and girls are still confirmed in the faith, becoming men and women in the process. And a place is prepared, every week, for folks to hear the good news about Jesus and his love for them. A place is prepared at the Lord’s Table, to taste and see that he is good.

“With God all things are possible.” Without God, nothing is possible.

Peace,
Pastor Chris