FAITHWAY
BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Stephen Russ
FaithWayBaptist.Church

FaithWay Baptist Church
3635 Pollack Avenue
Evansville, IN 47714

November 1, 2026

Dear FaithWay Family,

Last Christmas, our church gave generously through our ***Christmas Gift to Jesus Offering,*** and together we raised approximately ***$70,000*** toward a much-needed improvement to our property. Our original plan was to construct a half-circle drive leading to our existing lobby, making our entrance more accessible and convenient for our church family and guests.

At the time, we believed the project could begin this past spring. However, despite our best efforts and planning, we encountered one delay after another. Rather than become discouraged, we determined to stay the course and use the delays as an opportunity to think carefully about the future needs of our church.

As FaithWay continues to grow, it has become increasingly apparent that our lobby and restroom facilities also need attention. We engaged a structural engineer to explore a future lobby expansion, initially hoping we might at least pour the necessary footers beneath the new concrete. Those conversations led to further consultation with engineers and architects, and their recommendation was clear: it would be wiser and more cost-effective to complete the building expansion first and then construct the drive around it.

As a result, our proposed project would include an expanded lobby, a covered vehicle drop-off, the half-circle drive originally envisioned, and ***new multi-stall restrooms.*** The lobby expansion would add approximately 1,100 square feet, giving us more room for fellowship, movement, and welcoming guests.

Before moving in this direction, we sought counsel from others in our church. Our deacons are unanimously supportive of this adjustment, and many who gave toward last year's offering have also expressed that they believe this is the right and responsible way to move forward. Most importantly, **the $70,000 given last year remains fully set aside for this project.** Those funds have not been redirected or spent elsewhere.

On Sunday, December 6, we begin ***"Making Room—A FaithWay Flourishing Campaign."*** I am asking you to pray about how the Lord would have you participate as we prepare our facilities to better serve our church family and welcome others.

I am also excited to share something very special with you...

An anonymous donor has expressed a desire to make a significant investment in this project—but they want to do it together with the rest of our church family. Because of their generosity, ***every dollar given to the Making Room Campaign will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $100,000!***

That means a $100 gift becomes $200 toward the project. A $500 gift becomes $1,000. And if our church gives the full amount needed to receive the match, an additional $100,000 will be invested alongside the gifts of our church family.*

Our initial fundraising goal is $300,000. We already have approximately $70,000 set aside, and gifts to the campaign will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $100,000. Our congregational goal is $130,000. Together with the funds already saved and the full matching gift, that would bring us to our initial $300,000 goal.

We also anticipate that financing could be necessary as we move toward construction. Our desire is to raise as much as possible before taking on debt so that any financing is responsible and manageable for the church.

Our commitment card outlines two steps for giving *above our regular tithes and offerings.*

First, our ***Christmas Gift to Jesus Offering*** will be received December 6–27, 2026. Second, our ***Easter Sacrifice Offering*** is the total amount we plan to give from January through March, to be completed by Easter Sunday, March 28, 2027. This may be fulfilled through a one-time gift, weekly or monthly gifts, or a combination. ***Sacrifice Sunday, March 21***, will be a special opportunity to give toward this commitment.

Our request is not for everyone to give the same amount, but for each of us to prayerfully consider what the Lord would have us do. As the Bible reminds us, *"for God loveth a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Thank you for your generosity, patience, and faithfulness. The delays were not what we anticipated, but we believe they may ultimately allow us to accomplish something more beneficial for the future of FaithWay than what we originally envisioned.

As God leads, you may return your commitment card at church or give or make your commitment online at discoverfaithway.org/makingroom.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Stephen Russ
Lead Pastor