

November 5, 2018

To whom it may concern:

We are a small, rural congregation that has struggled with finances for most of our 114-year history. Pastor John Cross told us that he could help us raise at least \$100,000 over three years, over-and-above our regular giving. The immediate need was for a \$42,000 replacement of our roof, but there were a number of other items that had been deferred for years and decades.

As president of the congregation, I was willing to give this a try, although there was very little confidence within our leadership that we would raise more than maybe \$40,000. John worked with us with good humor, infectious confidence, a positive spirit, spiritual commitment, and the belief that we could do better than we had imagined. By the end of the program, we had pledges of almost \$160,000 - which is pretty amazing for a congregation whose budget is less than \$100,000. We actually received closer to \$170,000 by the end of the 3-year giving period.

Truly, our ***Planting for the Future ~ Renewing Our Legacy*** campaign has transformed our little church. In addition to the new roof, we were able to restore our historic Bell Tower, repair rain damage, make numerous repairs to our parsonage, add gravel to our parking lot and complete several other smaller projects. And even more than this, our success gave us an extra bounce in our step and hope for the years ahead.

We continue to do well as a church and have great optimism for the future. I'm sure there are other consultants who could have come in here, but I doubt that there is anybody in the country who could have done as well as John Cross. I would give him my highest recommendation, whether your church is big or small. I know John told us that this was his smallest church program, as some of his other congregations were able to raise well over \$1,000,000. But to us, nestled here in the wheat fields of Whitman County Washington, \$160,000 seemed like a million dollars!

All of us here at Selbu have abundant gratitude for John. Now, we are believers! I guarantee you that working with ***Connections Stewardship*** will be one of your best investments for your future.

Sincerely,

*D.A. Cox*

Durand Cox, President of Selbu Lutheran Church  
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