

BUILDING 2 a HOPE BEYOND

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7



Building 2 a Hope Beyond Questions & Answers Guide

This booklet provides answers to a number of questions you might be wondering regarding the *Building Building 2 a Hope Beyond* giving campaign. Please know we care about each and every one of your questions, and we thank you for already taking the first step to learn more about Lutheran Church of Hope and this giving campaign by reading this Q&A. If you have any further questions that weren't addressed in this booklet, please contact **Pastor Scott at 515-964-5586 or scott.rains@hopeankeny.org**.

Future Facility Questions

Q: What are we planning to build?

A: A two-level, approximately 21,000-square-foot Youth and Family addition that will enable Hope Ankeny to worship and grow deeper in our faith through classes and activities. We will have a sacred space for every season of life to connect with one another and our great and loving God.

On the upper (ground floor) level, the centerpiece will be a room that seats up to 400 people. During the week this space will become the primary large group space for PowerLife (grades 6-8) and Ignition (grades 9-12). On the weekends this space will be used as a more intimate Worship Center. This will make it possible for us to schedule weddings on Saturdays (the primary time people want to schedule weddings, but we currently cannot accommodate because we are setting up the Worship Center for the Saturday 5:00 pm service). Additionally, on Sunday mornings we will add a 10:00 am worship service in this new space which will increase the opportunities for us to reach new people with the life-changing good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

We will relocate Café Hope inside this new addition and create spaces where conversations can happen and relationships can develop and grow. This will also alleviate the traffic congestion outside the Worship Center before and after services.

One of the hallmarks of Hope is transparency in all we do. In terms of architecture, that means a lot of windows so people can easily see into the building and to communicate we have nothing to hide. The new addition will be flooded with natural light as a reminder of the light of God's love.

All of this new space will increase access, and provide a smoother flow throughout the building. With the addition, we will have enough overflow seating to

provide direct lines of sight into the Worship Center, so we can seat up to 1,500 people during large worship services like Christmas Eve and Easter.

We'll also (nearly) double the size of the nursery to better allow our nursery staff to meet the needs of infants and toddlers, introducing them to the love of Jesus in a safe and comfortable place.

At the front of the Youth and Family wing will be an outdoor Prayer Garden. This will be a beautiful and serene area for Bible study, conversation and reflection.

The Lower Level will nearly double the amount of classroom space in our church. We believe life change happens best in small groups and this will increase our ability to do small groups well. With additional classrooms it becomes possible for us to pursue the opening of a Hope Preschool to serve a real need in our community.

Q: Why are we building now?

A: We're on a mission! God has called Hope to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ." Throughout the history of Hope, we have proven a building is not necessary to carry out that mission, but it can sure help!

Outreach Magazine, a national publication, recently featured Lutheran Church of Hope as #24 on their list of the 100 largest churches in America. In the last five years our average worship attendance has doubled.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ankeny was the third fastest growing community in the country in 2018. For all kinds of reasons, people are moving to the Ankeny area, and many of them are finding their way to Hope! The growth we've experienced in the last five years is really exciting. Over 1,300 children attended Vacation Bible School at Hope Ankeny in 2018 (an increase from 600 in 2013). The number of children in the nursery has almost quadrupled from 24 to 96.

Additionally, more and more students are filling up the building on Wednesday nights for PowerLife (Grades 6-8) and Ignition (Grades 9-12). PowerLife registrations have grown from 97 to 307, and Ignition registrations have exploded from 29 to 226. Praise God!

To accommodate this growth, our staff has been creative, coming up with great ways to utilize the space restrictions we have. For example, we have student small groups meeting in a space designed to be a food pantry – it works, but it's definitely not ideal! We will continue to do this, but as a church, our ability to carry out the mission God has given us is hindered because we don't have the space to expand and grow. **It's time to build!**

Q: Isn't Hope big enough already?

A: Big enough for us, or God? This is God's church, not ours or yours. We don't have the authority to stop the expansion of God's kingdom. God has blessed this church with phenomenal growth. This has happened by the grace of God and because of your deep commitment to our mission. We're continually impressed by your willingness as a church to be faithful "farmers" of the harvest God provides! (Luke 10:2)

The mission of Lutheran Church of Hope is to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ."

For Hope, the goal has never been about growing this congregation to a certain size – it has always been to remain faithful to God's mission and expand his Kingdom!

Make no mistake – the temptation exists to slow the growth or even look at this blessing from God and call it a burden. But, your enthusiasm, joy and ability to adapt has remained constant as Hope continues to grow – and that's impressive!

You have avoided the temptation to develop a complaining spirit or a grumpy heart. You have sacrificed your personal preferences, and many times your comfort, for the sake of mission, making room for more people to come and hear the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ. You understand and faithfully embrace the biblical definition of what it means to be a follower of Jesus ("servant," not "consumer"). You realize that it's not

an acceptable or faithful option for a church that considers Christian mission a top priority to shut our doors or put a no vacancy sign on our front door.

You are a faithful church after God's own heart!

Q: Why aren't we adding to the existing Worship Center?

A: For all kinds of reasons, actually. It does not make sense to jump from a 700-seat Worship Center to a 1,000, 1,200 or 1,500-seat Worship Center right now. We could tear down the load bearing east wall and expand the Worship Center by about 300 seats. That would have essentially the same cost budget as the proposed Youth and Family wing, but it wouldn't meet most of the space needs we have, or more importantly, those anticipated future needs as we continue to carry out our mission. While some of the services are in overflow, if all four of our weekend services were evenly distributed we could easily grow by another 1,500 people each weekend before we were out of space for worship.

Giving Campaign Questions

Q: What is a giving campaign?

A: A giving campaign is an effective tool God has used in the past to inspire us to grow spiritually and expand the church's facilities physically. These giving campaigns have resulted in seasons of phenomenal growth and joy. A giving campaign at Hope always includes intensive prayer and Bible study; cheerful and faithful giving; intentional fellowship; inspirational worship; and a big celebration for the entire congregation! It's a good time to be the church! (1 Corinthians 13:13; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 12:33-34, 48)

Q: If we need to build and do a giving campaign, why aren't we hiring a professional fundraiser, like a lot of other churches do?

A: Our experience at Hope has taught us that we very much prefer homemade giving campaigns rather than attempting to adapt a fundraising company's methods to our context. Plus, we're saving about \$100,000 by doing it ourselves.

Q: How many volunteers will it take to make this giving campaign work?

A: Approximately 500! No kidding. So please help if you can!

Q: How does a giving campaign work? What should I expect?

A: You can expect to be surprised if you're preparing for a high-pressure, slick and polished effort to get you to part with more money than you really want to give!

It's a pretty simple process ... there are basically four stages of *Building 2 a Hope Beyond*.

1. Neighborhood Open Houses: You will be invited to a Neighborhood Open House. Now, before you run away screaming, rest assured these have nothing to do with making a sales pitch. Neighborhood Open House hosts and *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* volunteers are not allowed to ask for money, or even talk about how much a person should give during a home visit.

During *Building 2 a Hope Beyond*, we want to provide opportunities for you to get together with other people from Hope! We'll invite you to come to an Open House hosted by someone from Hope Ankeny who lives relatively close to you. You'll meet people from your neighborhood who are part of your church, and you may or may not have even known it! You'll watch a video where we will explain why we are doing the campaign and walk you through campaign materials.

After the video, volunteers from the *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* Campaign Team will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.

That's it! Simple. Easy. Fun. Painless. Meet some people, share some stories, watch a video and get some questions answered.

2. Worship, Prayer and Bible Study: The Christian fundamentals of prayer and getting into God's Word through worship, study, prayer and daily devotions will serve as the foundation of the campaign. You'll be hearing much more about this most important stage of the process as we go!

3. Celebration: We're planning a huge all-church party on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 5:00 pm. The event will be held in the Hope Ankeny Worship Center and is for the entire church family (kids are welcome, too)!

It will include lots of inspiring music, stories of Hope, food, fellowship and a ton of fun! It definitely will not be about money on this night. No one will ask you to make your pledge at the end of the celebration. It's just an all-out, Spirit-filled party with your church family (there's a time for everything, including "laughter" – Ecclesiastes 3:4)!

4. Offering: At the weekend services on Nov. 17 & 18 (the weekend before Thanksgiving), we'll thank God for Hope, and we'll give offerings to him with thankful and joy-filled hearts, responding to his call through a one-time special offering and/or a three-year giving commitment from 2019-2021.

Q: Isn't a giving campaign just a sneaky way of doing a fundraiser, but calling it something else?

A: Actually, there's a significant difference: fundraisers typically include established methods, sales or gimmicks to encourage people to give more, offering recognition and/or rewards for those who do. That's appropriate for a nonprofit organization trying to raise money, but not for a church trying to teach people a Bible-based model for giving as a matter of faith and spiritual discipline.

Giving campaigns at Hope do not include pressure tactics or gimmicks. You won't get your name engraved on a plaque if you give a lot of money. We give offerings at church for God's glory, not our own. During *Building 2 a Hope Beyond*, you simply will be asked to pray about what God wants to do through you to accomplish his will for this church. Then, you will be invited to trust God enough to take a leap of faith and give whatever he lays on your heart to give ... not to be recognized or honored by other people, but to honor God!

Q: If it's that simple, then why not just tell us what we need and see what happens? Why bother with all the work it takes to put together a giving campaign?

A: There are times we've wondered the same thing! However, the truth is, that while telling people what we need financially might be enough to accomplish our giving goals, it would not allow us to fulfill our gathering and growing goals. It is our sincere hope that in the process of this faith journey called

Building 2 a Hope Beyond you will learn to give cheerfully and connect in a deeper way to God, to one another and to the vision God has so clearly laid before us as a church. These gathering and growing goals are at least as important as the giving goals, and they won't happen unless we set aside several weeks to get it done.

Q: What's the significance of the giving campaign theme: *Building 2 a Hope Beyond*?

A: There's a song we sing at worship called "Overcome." It begins with these lyrics:

*Now the darkness fades, into new beginnings
As we lift our eyes to a hope **beyond***

Think about what that means for you. A hope beyond what? Your current realities? Your generation? Your life? All of the above?

Paul prays for the Ephesians this way: **"Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us — to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."** *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Any time there's a giving campaign, part of what we are asking you to do is think beyond yourself. Sure, there will be benefits to what we build that you will enjoy. But the hope is what we build will outlast us. What we build will make a difference and leave an impact for lives beyond our generation.

"Each generation should set its hope anew on God." Psalm 78:7

We're going to build a Youth and Family wing. Almost by definition that means we're building something for generations beyond ours. It's exciting to think of the stories we will hear from people in five, 10, even 50 years from now who say, "I'm glad someone was thinking of us in 2018!"

Building 2 a Hope Beyond is a God thing, a holy cause and the opportunity of our lifetime to let God build his church through us! Connecting you to the clear vision God has provided for Hope is the purpose of this campaign. We want you to see the vision for Hope, and then pray about what God might want to do through you to accomplish his will for this church.

So *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* is more than just a title ... it's who God wants us to be as a campus of Lutheran Church of Hope: a church that reaches out beyond the walls of this building and shares the everlasting love of Jesus Christ to current and future generations.

Q: You've written about goals in the previous responses. What exactly are the details surrounding the three primary goals for *Building 2 a Hope Beyond*?

A: The goals of *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* are for every person in the Hope family to:

1. GATHER

• **Worship Weekly**

INSPIRATION: Worship is a spiritual exercise for the body of Christ; a time for intimacy with God, healing for hurt, sanctuary from chaos, water for dry bones and spiritual food for the soul; a Holy Spirit hangout hospital for sinners, a place of renewal and holy ground.

• **Attend a Neighborhood Open House**

CONNECTION: To communicate the vision and goals of *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* and to give the people of Hope an opportunity to connect with one another.

• **Party at the *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* Celebration Event**

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 5:00 pm at Hope Ankeny Worship Center.

CELEBRATION: Thanksgiving to God for more than a decade of abundant blessings at Hope and dream together about the future; a full-blown family reunion for every person with a connection to Hope; a taste of heaven!

2. GROW

• **Develop a Daily Prayer Routine**

CONVERSATION: Develop more effective communication patterns and a deeper bond between you and God. Make good use of the daily devotional guide. Attend prayer opportunities. Commit to pray daily for the campaign. Prayerfully ask God to guide your giving.

- **Dive into the Bible**

REVELATION: Experience life-changing freedom as you immerse yourself in the living Word of God. A great way to do this is by going to the Hope website and typing “Daily Bible Reading” into the search bar.

3. GIVE

- **Discover the Joy of Cheerful Giving**

LIBERATION: Find freedom in guilt-free, pressure-free giving; not under compulsion, but cheerfully, generously and freely! Understand that everything we have belongs to God. Pray. Wait for God to answer. Give as a matter of God’s revelation, not human reason. Give with a sense of God’s timing for the eternal impact of our gifts.

- **Bring an Offering to God through Building 2 a Hope Beyond**

MISSION: For the sake of fulfilling Lutheran Church of Hope’s mission to “reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ.” In addition to regular general fund offerings, offer a one-time gift and/or a three-year commitment to *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* on Commitment Weekend – Nov. 17 & 18.

Q: More specifically, what are the financial goals for Building 2 a Hope Beyond?

A: Here’s a closer look at the actual numbers, as well as how much we can build at three different levels of giving.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – NEW WORSHIP CENTER

VICTORY GOAL: \$4,000,000

This is a debt-free campaign. If we raise \$4 million we will praise God for the faithful and generous giving of this congregation, and put the money in the bank. Once enough giving comes in to total \$5 million we’ll be able to start moving dirt.

DREAM GOAL: \$5,000,000

Finance Phase II Youth and Family Wing: Building a Youth and Family wing. A room that will seat up to 400 people which will become the large group space for PowerLife and Ignition, a Chapel for weddings and funerals, and the start of a new Sunday 10:00 am service. This room will also give Children’s Ministry great flexibility for special events like the Daddy

Daughter Dance, Vacation Bible School and a Hope Preschool. Café Hope will be relocated in the new addition where there will be increased gathering area and café seating.

MIRACLE GOAL: \$6,000,000

All of the above plus completely finish lower level new classrooms, additional restrooms, offices for growing staff needs, an outdoor prayer garden and patio, completion of driveway loop on the northwest corner of the church building, and additional parking on the north side of the building.

Q: Isn’t an offering of \$5-6 million over three years unrealistic? Five years ago, the giving campaign total was just over \$2 million. How will we ever hope to reach the Dream or Miracle goals?

A: In 2013, the annual budget was \$575,000. At the September annual meeting we approved a \$1.63 million budget. Still, it’s a matter of faith. The numbers don’t make a lot of sense apart from faith. However, we have grown “deeper and wider” over the past five years. As we mature in faith, we generally give more. Additionally, there are about twice as many people at Hope Ankeny as there were five years ago. With God, all things are possible (Luke 1:37)!

Q: That’s great, you’re supposed to have faith. But seriously, what happens if we don’t reach the \$4,000,000 “Victory Goal”?

A: No problem. Really. Even if we don’t reach our financial goals, we’ll still have plenty to celebrate, and we’ll be a stronger church having embarked on this journey! So, it’s really not worth worrying about. Let’s trust God to lead us wherever we need to go (Luke 12:22-34). If we can give at a level that allows us to build now (\$5 million over three years), that’s great. If not, we’ll wait until we’re ready. Either way, there’s no way we can lose!



Q: Why do we need commitments for \$5,000,000 million in giving over three years before we build Phase II? Why not just take whatever we give through Building 2 a Hope Beyond and then take out a loan for the rest, so we can build no matter what?

A: We currently have a \$6.2 million loan from Phase I. We believe it would be irresponsible to go further into debt. We have a responsibility as caretakers of this church not to pass on an insurmountable debt to future generations, thereby ultimately hampering the future mission of this church.

Because of some very strong leadership from the Church Council, and generous giving within the congregation, Hope has always been, and fully intends, to continue to be faithful financial planners and stewards.

Q: Why don’t we pay off the current debt before building Phase II?

A: That’s a good question – and the Bible teaches it is not God’s will for any of us to become smothered in debt. But, we aren’t and we won’t be. We have a very conservative view of the amount of debt we will carry. Additionally, the building and the land become assets, so we are not putting the church in financial jeopardy by building.

What’s more, waiting to build will no doubt slow the growth of this church – and at some point very soon, it just would not be physically possible to continue to grow. For the sake of mission, then, there is a genuine need to build as soon as possible.

Q: What about our regular offerings? Do we stop giving those so we can give to the Building 2 a Hope Beyond fund?

A: Only if God directs you to do that. But, the ongoing ministries of this church need to be funded in order to go on, so please prayerfully consider your giving to the general fund of the church in addition to and separate from the new *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* fund. We don’t want to sacrifice one fund for the sake of another.

Q: Could any of the money I give to Building 2 a Hope Beyond ever be used for the church’s General Fund expenses?

A: No. The church has a policy on this issue. Every penny you give to *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* will go to the fund you have designated. None of what you give to *Building 2 a Hope Beyond* can ever be used for general fund ministry expenses.

Q: OK, so what’s the bottom-line ... how much should I give? What’s the average gift that each household needs to offer in order to accomplish our goal?

A: Sorry, but we won’t tell you what to give, because we don’t know the answer. Only God does. We’re not even going to suggest an amount. And, we hope you don’t decide what to give based on some reasonable calculation, factoring in what you gave last time plus or minus an income change. Nor some other formula for coming up with a number that has nothing to do with what God wants; we want you to discover the joy and freedom of giving God’s way ... and that won’t happen if you let a human being tell you what to give.

Q: So how am I supposed to know what to give?

A: It’s not complicated. It’s a matter of faith ... God’s revelation, not human reason!

STEP #1: PRAY. Ask God this simple question: “What do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for this church?”

STEP #2: LISTEN TO GOD. Keep asking until you “hear” God’s answer. If you don’t get anything – in other words, if you don’t get a pretty strong indication in your heart, soul, or mind as you pray each day throughout this campaign – then quiet your life until you can. Be still. Listen. God will write a number on your heart, soul, or mind (Psalm 46:10).

STEP #3: TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH. Trust God enough to do whatever he calls you to do, believing that he will provide the means to make it happen (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). Now you’re giving as a matter of faith – and thus, experiencing the joy and freedom of Bible-based giving without anyone telling you, other than God, what to give! Enjoy the feeling!



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