



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS GUIDE



"For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under
heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

This booklet provides answers to a number of questions you might be wondering regarding the Hope Grows Here 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 don't hesitate to contact Pastor Pat at (515) 422-9112 or email pat.quaid@hopewaukee.org.

FACILITY QUESTIONS

Q: How many acres does the church currently possess?

A: The church sits on approximately 12.4 acres.

As we consider the growth and future of our congregation, the property would allow for us to consider a variety of ways to expand ministry. One might be the consideration of a future wedding/funeral chapel with a capacity of 300+ guests. This facility would be modern, allow for a more intimate gathering of people for significant life events, and could be used for additional classes or special services throughout the year.

In the Vision 20/20 document shared by Pastor Mike in 2010, he alluded to a servant leadership development center. As the church faces an incredible shift in the 21st century regarding church development and decline, the Hope Leadership Center could provide lay accreditation and certification for ministry. The past 10 years have been very exciting, and this month Hope will host its first Leadership Conference (Oct. 21-23). This innovative event could spark the birth of the Hope Leadership Center. Because of our proximity to the West Des Moines Campus, Hope Waukee could play a vital role in the future development of church leaders and be part of this exciting work as we look at new ministry frontiers.

Another possibility is an outdoor pavilion, sitting on the northeast side of the property. This space would allow for outdoor concerts in the summer, opportunities for young

families to experience outdoor worship in the warm months, special festivals and potlucks.

Q: How many square feet is the current church facility?

A: The current square footage is 53,500. The new facility is simply amazing. With space for small and large events, classes, and partnerships with the community, we are certainly able to accomplish quite a lot in the space. With a worship center that holds up to 900 people, we will have room to grow and build a vibrant worshipping community. With six large classrooms for HopeKids and a worship space called The Crossway, our youth will have an amazing opportunity to grow in their faith, and have a space that hopefully will feel like a second home for them.

Q: Will we have a student ministry at Waukee?

A: With the dramatic changes we've experienced in our location in the past few months, we now can begin to think about what programs we will offer at Hope Waukee. This spring we will begin a process of looking at ministries like PowerLife (Hope's junior high ministry) and Ignition (Hope's senior high ministry). Last year, 300 PowerLife students were confirmed at Hope West Des Moines. Student ministry has the potential of being a major part of our campus. Finding talented and capable leaders will add to the vitality and health to this ministry. We look forward to seeing what God will do.

Q: Does Hope Waukee need to purchase this location? Wouldn't it be better to wait and lease for a few more years?

A: We're on a mission, church! God has called Hope to "reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ." For the past year as a campus, and looking back at the 20 years prior to our launch, Hope has done all sorts of creative things to handle the growth and to continue to provide opportunities for discipleship. All sorts of creative spaces – including basements, coffee houses, college campuses, stadiums, the chapel at Living History farms, restaurants, Des Moines arenas, school gyms, and other churches in town – have been used to help our ministries grow and thrive.

Of course, we can continue to do this, and to some degree we always will at Hope. 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 without having our own permanent location.

Outreach Magazine, a national publication, recently featured Lutheran Church of Hope as one of the 100 fastest growing congregations of any denomination in the country. As Hope Waukee continues to grow, worship at Shuler Elementary and the offices at Berkshire Parkway simply do not allow the space we need to do what we need to do, when we need to do it.

It's time for Hope to grow here!

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 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: Is the building we are purchasing going to be too small?

A: Hopefully! That means God is continuing to bless us with growth. At the same time, Hope's philosophy has been to wait as long as we can before we build, and build as much as we can when we build. In our current state, we had an opportunity to buy way more building and land than we were ready for. But we are stepping out in great faith, believing God will add to our congregation, and we are fortunate to have room for those who will be moving into our community. With the new building, as the congregation grows, we'll be able to add worship services on Saturday and get really creative in how we utilize the space.

Additionally, we are already praying about the next campus we may launch out of Hope Waukee!

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, all-church celebration! 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, then 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 200! 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 Hope Grows Here.

1. Hope Waukee Open Houses: You will be invited to our actual facility that we are leasing for the Hope Waukee Open House. Now, before you run away screaming, rest assured these have nothing to do with making a sales pitch. The Open House hosts and Hope Grows Here volunteers are not allowed to ask for money, or even talk about how much a person should give during an Open House visit.

During Hope Grows Here, we want to provide opportunities for you to get together with other people from Hope! You'll connect with others who are part of your church, and you may even live near one another!

You'll watch a DVD where we will explain why we are doing the campaign and walk you through campaign materials. After the DVD, volunteers from the Hope Grows Here campaign team will be available to answer any questions you might have. The last part of the Open House is a tour of the building, with explanations of how each area might be improved through the results of the giving campaign.

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

2. Hope Grows Here 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. Hope Grows Here Celebration: We're planning a huge all-church party at Hope Waukee on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 5:00 pm 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. Hope Grows Here Offering: At the weekend services on Nov. 22 (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 2016-2018.

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 Hope Grows Here, 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, 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 Hope Grows Here 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: Hope Grows Here?

A: In the giving campaign held in the fall of 2005, Lutheran Church of Hope was dreaming and praying about launching satellite campuses all over the Des Moines area. In 2006, Hope Ankeny began as an answer to those prayers. Sure glad someone was thinking about that community! Hope Ankeny was quickly followed by Hope Des Moines in 2008 and Hope Johnston-Grimes in 2011. All three of these campuses took part in Building Hope Together in 2012, along with Hope West Des Moines, who finished paying down their loan and is becoming a 50/50 campus (with half of every dollar being given to mission outside the walls of Hope) as of 2015.

When you look at what God is doing in and through all the Hope campuses, the phrase, "Hope Grows Here" takes on a greater level of power. Throughout Hope Grows Here, every campus will join us in prayer, and will have the same opportunities to grow, gather and give to our campaign.

Every campus will be praying, trusting, believing and hoping that God will continue to work out our church's mission through us at Hope Waukee.

Jesus' prayer for his disciples (and ultimately the church) was that they would be one (John 17).

The church is often referred to as one body consisting of many parts. And the church is at its best when every part is working together (Ephesians 4:16).

Hope Grows Here, then, is a season for us to look deep inside the heart of our church and discover again who we are and what God has created us to be!

One glorious Hope for the future (Ephesians 4:4).

A spiritual lighthouse; a mission outpost; a community of congregations who invite the world to meet, know and serve Jesus Christ!

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!"

Hope Grows Here 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 Hope Grows Here is more than just a title ... it's who God wants us to be as a campus of Lutheran Church of Hope: One body united in Christ.

Q: You've written about goals in the previous responses. What exactly are the details surrounding the three primary goals for Hope Grows Here?

A: The goals of Hope Grows Here 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 Hope Waukee Open House

CONNECTION: To communicate the vision and goals of Hope Grows Here and to give the people of Hope an opportunity to connect with one another.

- Party at Hope Waukee (in our new location), Sunday, Nov. 15, 5:00 pm

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. Participate in prayer opportunities. Commit to pray daily for the campaign. Prayerfully ask God to guide your giving.

- Dive into the Bible

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 Hope Grows Here

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 Hope Grows Here on Commitment Weekend – Nov. 22.

Q: More specifically, what are the financial goals for Hope Grows Here?

A: Here's a closer look at the actual numbers, as well as how much we can accomplish at two different levels of giving.

HOPE WAUKEE CAMPUS – PERMANENT LOCATION

Victory Goal: \$1,500,000

Finance Phase I of the Church Building: Create a second road entrance connecting to Westgate Drive, paint the exterior of the building, install permanent signage above the Atrium and east/west entrances, and the addition of an exterior cross with landscaping on the south side of church building.

Dream Goal: \$2,000,000

All of the above, plus adding a chancel and windows to Worship Center, adding window shades in the Atrium and classrooms, painting the Atrium and window frames, straightening the outside edifice to remove the crown, and

improve mechanicals in Worship Center. We will also make upgrades to equipment and technology to enhance the discipleship and worship experience.

Q: Isn't an offering of \$2 million over three years unrealistic? How will we ever hope to reach a \$2 million goal?

A: 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 year. As we mature in faith, we generally give more. Additionally, there are members at all of our campuses who support the mission of Hope and may contribute to our campus campaign. Also, now that we are in our new location, our attendance has nearly doubled, increasing the number of people who may contribute to our campus campaign Hope Grows Here. 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 \$1.5 million "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 purchase now (\$1.5 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 \$1.5 million in giving over three years before we purchase this building? Why not just take whatever we give through Hope Grows Here and then take out a loan for the rest, so we can purchase no matter what?

A: Because 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 just wait until we get enough money to pay for the new space and property in Waukee rather than take on any debt at all?

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 purchasing the 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 buy as soon as possible.

Q: What about our regular offerings? Do we stop giving those so we can give to the Hope Grows Here 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 Hope Grows Here fund. The congregation approved a \$500,000 annual budget at September's annual meeting. We don't want to sacrifice one fund for the sake of another.

Q: Could any of the money I give to Hope Grows Here 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 Hope Grows Here will go to the fund you have designated. None of what you give to Hope Grows Here 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!

"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away." Luke 19:26



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