



“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you **a future** and **a hope.**”

Jeremiah 29:11

Building Hope for Tomorrow Questions and Answers Guide

This booklet provides answers to several questions you might be asking regarding the **Building Hope for Tomorrow** campaign. Please know we care about each one of your questions, and we thank you for already taking the first step to learn more about Hope Grimes 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 Andy at andy.hermanson@hopegrimes.org.

FACILITY UPGRADE QUESTION

Q: I have attended a worship service at Hope Grimes and it was not full, do we really need to expand our building to fulfill our mission?

A: The mission of Hope Grimes is to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ. This mission plays itself out in a wide variety of expressions on a weekly and annual basis. Worship services are a key engagement point for many in our community, but the need is felt additionally amongst our student ministry, adult ministry, children's ministry and staff.

Let's begin with weekend worship. Our average attendance is steadily increasing, and we expect it to continue to do so as we look at the growth forecasted of the communities God has placed us in the midst of. The recent addition of our Saturday night service (100+ attendees) has taken the pressure off the over-crowded Sunday services, but we believe this to be temporary. As we strive to build hope for tomorrow, we believe we will eventually need the additional space on a weekly basis for our weekend worship.

In addition to the sheer number of seats and space for people to sit and attend worship, we also feel the need for a space that allows for rich hospitality and fosters deeper connection with each other. It can feel unwelcoming to walk into an atrium full of overflow seating and be greeted with the sudden realization that a service is in progress and any noise you make will be a distraction. There is a quick turnaround time in between services, which leads to families feeling they need to exit as quickly as possible to not block the entrance as others make their way into the service. This rapid movement works directly against God's calling for us to grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The space challenges continue with our children and student programming as well. Whether on the

weekends with HopeKids (age 3 - grade 5) or midweek with PowerLife and Ignition (junior high and high school), we do not have the space needed to foster the relationships between students and adults. Our high school ministry currently concludes at 9:30 pm due to the need to run grades 6, 7 and 8 at a staggered start so they fit in the space. In addition, groups are meeting in hallways, alcoves and the staff office for small group time, which we believe to be the most impactful part of the night. In order to ensure students are known, cared for and challenged to live out their faith, we need to expand.

This does not mention the long-term dream we have to be able to serve a meal for families on Wednesday nights along with age-appropriate ministries for all. The idea of having men, women, children, students and teams meet different nights has achieved a moderate level of success, but we believe more is possible. Considering today's hectic family schedules, we know we have limited options available to get people around a table to grow together.

Finally, there is an impact to staff as well. Our ministry staff is highly collaborative and our current set up has been helpful with that, but the need for focus and privacy is becoming increasingly evident. During the week it can be difficult to find a quiet place to work because of preschool, classes, rehearsals, meetings, care conversations and more taking place in our building at the exact same time.

Expanding our worship space allows us to move things around which allows space for additional offices, offering quiet space capable of allowing our team to truly give Jesus and the congregation their best.

GIVING CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

Q: What is a capital campaign, and why is it important for our church?

A: A capital campaign is an effective tool God has used in the past to inspire us to grow spiritually and improve the physical facilities of the church. This campaign will involve much more than fundraising - it will focus on prayer, the study of God's word, building relationships, inspirational worship, and cheerful and faithful giving. Each of these are areas of discipleship that call us to continually grow as followers of Jesus. It's a good time to be the church! (1 Cor. 13:13; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 9:7; Luke 12:33-34, 48) Secondly, in the past few years, Hope Grimes has had projected budgets at a deficit, meaning the current expenses of our facility and ministries have outgrown current general fund giving. Past campaigns have shown that an intentional, focused season of teaching, learning, and growing in our biblical understanding of stewardship and generosity will not only allow our capital project goals to be met, but increase our tithing as a church.

Q: Are we doing this campaign because we are in some sort of trouble financially?

A: Can we grow as a congregation in our financial giving? Absolutely. Are we confident that God will supply our needs as we trust in him for the future of this church? Absolutely. Hope Grimes is a ridiculously generous congregation. We pay our bills, compensate staff fairly (based on a salary survey of thousands of churches), and continue to tithe to dozens of local and global mission partners with 10 percent of all offerings received. All of us are works in progress, listening to God, and learning to give sacrificially and generously. Ultimately, we trust God. So, the leadership at Hope Grimes is not going to use a giving campaign as a gimmick or any tool to pressure you to give more. The leadership of our church is focused on helping all of us grow in understanding and application of God's word, and finances are no exception. We're going to teach about money and possessions because Jesus does so in his word, and he cares about it and us a lot. In addition, large projects like a campaign require giving above and beyond general fund giving to not sacrifice the ongoing ministry of the church.

Q: What is the maximum amount of money Hope Grimes will spend on this capital campaign?

A: At the annual meeting of Lutheran Church of Hope

on September 15, 2024, the congregation approved expenses up to \$5,800,000 in capital projects. Any amount given over that total will go toward our debt reduction. Hope Grimes currently has a debt from our original building of \$4,358,676. We continue to make regular interest payments to this amount monthly through our general fund. Paying down this debt also has the incredible benefit of saving us thousands of dollars in annual interest payments that could be used for mission and ministry.

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

A: Our 30 years of experience has taught us that we prefer homemade giving campaigns rather than attempting to adapt a fundraising company's methods to our context. Plus, we're saving \$100,000 by doing it ourselves.

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 non-profit 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 any campus of 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 Hope for Tomorrow**, you'll simply 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: Can I still give towards Building Hope for Tomorrow for Hope Grimes if I worship at another Hope campus?

A: Absolutely. Wherever you worship, you can indicate **Building Hope for Tomorrow - Grimes Campus** OR Hope Grimes Campaign on a check, or through online giving at hopegrimes.org/give.



Q: Do all of the opportunities to give to Hope Grimes through various assets apply to the campaign fund?

A: Yes! For more information, refer to the Bible-Based Giving handout in your packet.

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

A: A campaign leadership team of approximately 50 volunteers started working on this campaign in October and continues to work behind the scenes with various aspects of the project. This includes vision, strategy, budgeting, design, open house-style events, and communications. They are all volunteers, just like you, that are passionate about what God is doing at Hope Grimes!

Q: What are the capital improvements and upgrades that we are seeking to fund through the campaign?

A: We are hoping to build a 600-seat Worship Center to hold the families and individuals coming to weekend services. The capital improvements of this campaign also includes expanding our atrium and additional lower-level classrooms. These improvements will be capable of hosting our four weekly worship services, student ministry and other large ministry gatherings in a way that welcomes all. These additional spaces will give people permission to linger and enjoy connecting. We are also seeking to build a kitchen capable of providing meals for ministries.

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

A: The **Building Hope for Tomorrow** campaign is three years, running from December 2024 - December 2027. 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 simple process that includes three stages:

- 1. Informational Meetings:** Now, before you run away screaming, rest assured these have nothing to do with making a sales pitch. Meeting hosts and volunteers are not allowed to ask for money, or even talk about how much a person should give. Instead, we want to provide opportunities for you to get together with other people from Hope Grimes! These meetings will take place at the church where you'll watch a video explaining why we are doing the campaign, and we will walk through campaign materials together. After the video, volunteers from the campaign team will be available 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 your 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. In addition to worshipping weekly, we'll offer a spiritual gifts workshop, continue to challenge you to attend your weekly Bible studies and small groups, as well as participate in our worship services and an all-church Prayer Walk on

Sunday, Nov. 17. Please see the Devotional and Prayer Guides in your campaign folder for more ways to connect with God during this season.

3. Commitment Sunday and Processional Offering:

Although you may give at any time, on the weekend of November 23 and 24, we'll thank God for Hope Grimes, and 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 pledge by bringing the commitment card and envelope you receive in your folder to the altar. The commitment card will have a place to offer your time, talent or treasure, so everyone at Hope Grimes can bring an important and valuable gift, regardless of financial circumstances.

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, you will learn to give cheerfully and connect in a deeper way to God, to one another and to the vision God has laid before us as a church. These gathering and growing goals are as important as the giving goals, so it's crucial that we set aside several weeks to develop these healthy habits and allow God the time and space to work how he wants to.

Q: Giving goals have been established for this campaign with the top goal of \$5,800,000. I know all things are possible with God, but what if we don't reach those goals?

A: We feel confident that we'll be able to continue a growing, thriving mission in Granger, Grimes and Johnston no matter what the financial results of the campaign happen to be. Although we've planned for, and are operating with sound financial planning and budgeted projections, we trust God's plans. He's always made a way to accomplish the vision He's given us, and He won't stop now!

Q: What about our regular offerings? Do we stop giving those so we can give to the campaign fund?

A: No, unless God clearly directs you to do that. The ongoing ministries of this church need to be funded to

continue to thrive, so please prayerfully consider your giving to the general fund of the church in addition to and separate from the new campaign fund. We don't want to sacrifice one fund for the sake of another. For some of you, your first step of faith will be starting a monthly tithe to the general fund, which supports our facility, staff and ministry. For others, God has put you in a financial place to be able to give above and beyond your regular tithe and make a gift to the campaign.

Q: Could any of the money I give to the campaign 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 Hope for Tomorrow** will go to the fund you have designated.

Q: How do I make my offering to Building Hope for Tomorrow?

A: We're asking you to pray about giving in one or two ways - a one-time up-front offering and/or a three-year financial commitment to be given in weekly or monthly payments. Then, add those two offerings together on the Commitment Card you'll receive in your folder and bring to worship any weekend. Gifts may also be made online at hopegrimes.org/tomorrow, mailed to or dropped off at the church office any time. If you have any questions about online giving, or other forms of gifts, please email info@hopegrimes.org or call 515-259-9495.

Q: Why are children and students being asked to participate in this offering?

A: Children are not just the future of the church, they are a big part of the church right now. We want them to participate so they can experience the joy of cheerful giving! Not to mention, they'll learn biblical, life-long lessons about generosity during HopeKids on the weekends, and hopefully your discussions at home. That's why we'll be collecting money during HopeKids and student ministry each week of the campaign and they'll be invited to participate in the processional offering with the entire congregation on commitment weekend. Just like grown-ups, this is a guilt-free, pressure free opportunity for the kids in our congregation to grow.

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. It's 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!





LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

Grimes

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