

A CAMPAIGN FOR LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ASBURY IOWA

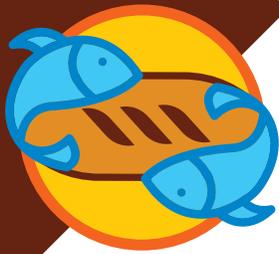


SHARE *our* ABUNDANCE

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH



SPRING 2021



SHARE our ABUNDANCE

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2899 Hales Mill Road
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563.582.7371
www.lordoflife.online

Dear Friends of Lord of Life,

The rich, caring nature of this congregation is what has drawn many of us to this place and makes us more excited about this ministry every day. As the world gave us a pandemic, we stepped up our three cares—for each other, for the community, and for the world. Our care for one another has been unwavering. We doubled our food pantry to care for the community. When we set out to build a well so that people across the world could have clean water to drink, we built two instead. **Your care for each other and the world reflects God's Abundance.**

As a congregation, we recently celebrated our 40th birthday. This is a significant number for a church or any business for that matter. Most organizations never reach this milestone. Those who do often recognize that it is the launching point for the next significant period in the organization's history and we believe such is the case with Lord of Life. When we embarked on our journey to improve our facility 14 years ago, it was accompanied by a commitment that mission and ministry drive the functionality and design of a church building.

Congregation members who were here at that time, followed a journey of affirming what Lord of Life's ministry should be. Through a series of surveys, focus groups, and visioning exercises, the congregation identified priorities to guide our project. These priorities were creating a sanctuary space that was simple and flexible, a gathering space that was large and inviting, small group ministry, a mentoring program for new members, youth and leadership, a designated youth space for activities and conversation and preparing our space to be connections to the larger community as some examples. We believe the fact that these priorities have stood the test of time, speaks to the inclusive process followed by the congregation and how our congregation today continues to affirm and embrace these in our ministry.

We can look back on the 5 years since our building project was complete and see that we have made wonderful progress in our ministry and in turn, quickly realize our journey is far from done. In part, our future progress will be dictated by how we pay for all of the wonderful enhancements to our church home. Debt can be a burden that holds us back from dreaming about and living into the future that we feel called. For many, our debt can be intimidating. While it is significant, **we have a plan to address it!** The church has already taken a step in this direction by approving a budget for 2021 that incorporates partial mortgage debt payment and by 2027 will support 100% of the required monthly obligation.

When we reflect on God's abundance and our partnership in God's work near and far, it is apparent that we can secure our future for long-term ministry while at the same time increase our opportunities to serve one another, our community, and people around the world. Our Finance Team has outlined scenarios for a bold plan to be debt free in ten years. It is a plan worthy of our effort, calling us to respond with confidence in God's faithfulness that we will ensure the continued service and care from the Lord of Life congregation long into the future.

At the same time, ministry cannot wait. Our commitment to growing our outreach and attending to faith formation ministry is timely as the world around us changes rapidly, and we are ready to meet those needs.

The pages of this document share our plans. We invite you to read through these plans and pray about how God provides generously in your life. We believe the time is upon us to be bold...bold in our ministry and bold in our generosity. We invite you to join us in supporting this wonderful mission that God has given us to **share our abundance** that is so clearly apparent.

In Peace and in thanks,

MIKE DONOHUE
General Co-Chair

PAT FRIEDMAN
General Co-Chair

A 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN FOR DEBT FREEDOM AND EXPANDED MINISTRY

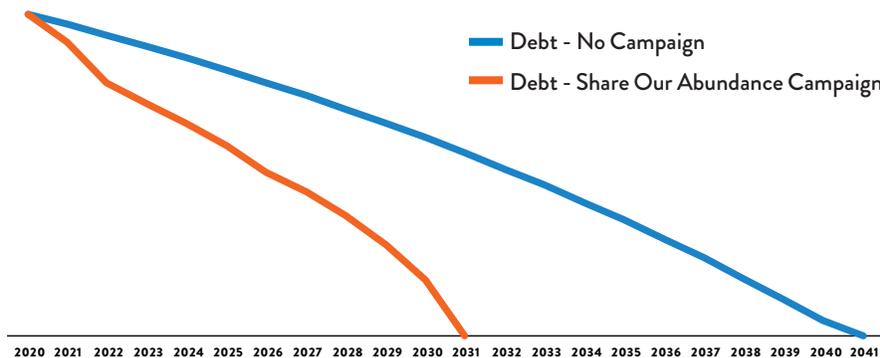
There are people at Lord of Life who are passionate about Faith Formation and some who are worried about the financial future of the congregation as long as we have a debt. We believe this 10-year plan addresses both of these and will propel our congregation deeper into our mission. We all recognize that God is calling us to partner toward a thriving ministry.

With this in mind, the following plan was developed for Lord of Life with three overlapping goals: (1) be debt free no later than 2031, (2) employ a full-time Faith Formation Director by 2024, and (3) honor our mission congregation origin through benevolence targeted at supporting a new or recently formed mission congregation.

The following steps will lead us to this outcome:

STEP 1: We need to raise \$450,000 over the next three years. This money will be used to reduce our \$1.06 million loan. We plan to seek refinancing of our existing mortgage in order to take advantage of lower interest rates.

STEP 2: In 2024 and 2027, we will launch fundraising appeals to renew financial gifts from this campaign. In this campaign contributions will continue to pay down the mortgage and support our mission congregation benevolence and provide funding for a full-time Faith Formation director.



Beginning in 2024 - Full Time Faith Formation Position

Beginning in 2032 - \$75,000 Annually Freed up for Mission

STEP 3: Following the 2027 campaign, we will seek to convert a portion of what has been faithfully given during the campaigns to ongoing, regular giving to support all areas of our ministry.

CAMPAIGN STEERING TEAM

Mike Donohue
Pat Friedman
GENERAL CO-CHAIRS

Larry Croghan,
LEAD GIFTS CHAIR

Kevin Curoe,
INSPIRATION CHAIR

Joan Decker,
HOSPITALITY CHAIR

Paul Erickson,
RESPONSE CHAIR

Kris Stache,
INFORMATION CHAIR



God is calling Lord of Life into God's new future. How exciting to be part of a worshipping community that listens for that call and seeks way to answer. I am thankful for the ministry of Lord of Life!
- KRIS STACHE

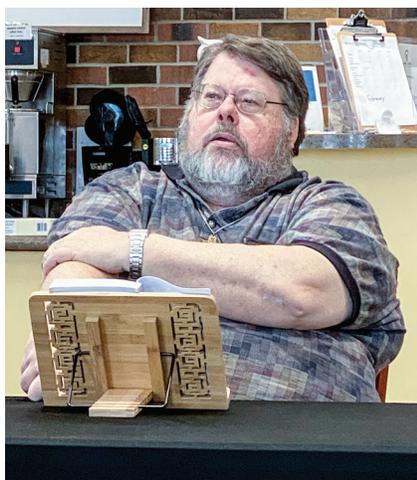


YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE *SHARE OUR ABUNDANCE* CAMPAIGN

You are being asked to prayerfully consider two ministry gifts to Lord of Life.

First, we seek to sustain ministry excellence through our ongoing ministries. Please consider a modest increase to your regular stewardship support to Lord of Life. This increase is needed to add \$96 per week to our mortgage payments, cover other cost of living increases, and replace giving from members who die or move away or otherwise must modify their generosity.

Your continued generosity in the form of a gift in support of accelerating the repayment of our church home mortgage as we work to free up resources to further enhance our ongoing ministries. This gift can be spread out over three years if it helps in maximizing your generosity. As you consider your participation, the following tables may be helpful.



Lord of Life has been a part of my life for many years. Over the years the community of believers at Lord of Life has provided a lot of support to our family. You know that the members are there for you or others when there are difficulties that occur.

- LARRY CROGHAN



Lord of Life Church...brings the Word of God and our community together and provides an opportunity to make a positive difference in our world. I know this campaign is what enables the Church to carry out its mission, and that I can make a difference. God's return on our investment will be great!

- PAUL ERICKSON



Gifts of the following amounts and quantities are needed to reach the **Share our Abundance Campaign** goal of \$450,000.

BASE GOAL

# OF GIFTS	VALUE OF GIFT	SECTION TOTAL	RUNNING TOTAL
1	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
1	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$75,000
2	\$21,000	\$42,000	\$117,000
3	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$162,000
4	\$12,000	\$48,000	\$210,000
5	\$9,000	\$45,000	\$255,000
8	\$6,000	\$48,000	\$303,000
30	\$3,600	\$108,000	\$411,000
33	\$1,080	\$35,640	\$446,640
6	\$600	\$3,600	\$450,240



Over time, gifts can make a significant difference.

It is helpful to look at what giving on a regular, systematic basis can add up to:

- \$1 per day = \$1,080 in 3 years
- \$10 per week = \$1,560
- \$20 per week = \$3,120
- \$50 per week = \$7,800
- \$300 per month = \$10,800
- \$500 per month = \$18,000
- \$1,000 per month = \$36,000

To sustain ministry excellence through our ongoing ministries, consider a modest increase to your regular stewardship support. Perhaps you might:

- Increase your gift by \$1 per day
- Double your gift one month in the coming year
- Consider growing your giving by a percentage or two

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I am excited to support this campaign for Lord of Life because: it will create a strong foundation so we can continue to care for the congregation, care for the community, and care for the world.
– SUSAN HANSEN

CARE FOR OUR CHURCH HOME

In addition to the *Share our Abundance* campaign, Lord of Life is also launching an intentional effort to care for the facility over the long-term. With this campaign, we are announcing the formation of the Lord of Life Legacy Circle that will recognize all individuals who choose to leave a portion of their estate or make a legacy gift to Lord of Life. We hope to provide additional education and information surrounding planned giving for the congregation in the months to come. To those who have already completed estate or long-term gift planning, we would ask for your generous inclusion of Lord of Life in those plans.

The first \$2 million given to the Legacy Circle will fund an endowment that will provide for the significant needs of the facility including roofs, parking lot paving, HVAC units and other refurbishment needs. The endowment bylaws require that the fund be kept at the ELCA Foundation once we have \$50,000 in the fund and that it distributes 5% per year for facility care. Gifts given to this fund will allow the facility to be a blessing to our ministry and empower future generations to invest in ministry beyond our facility. Once the facility fund reaches \$2 million, a second endowment fund for outreach will be launched.



HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE ENDOWMENT

» Gifts to the endowment fund of Lord of Life are being requested through estate gifts of members and friends of the congregation. The church has relationships with experts in the area of charitable gift planning and estate preparation. Please contact the church office for a referral. Once you have included the congregation in your planning, please alert the church office so that the expectancy can be noted, and we can be certain that your wishes for the gift are clear. Most gifts for the endowment will be declared in a will or as a beneficiary designation through an IRA or other account.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHEN DO MY GIFT PAYMENTS FOR THE APPEAL BEGIN?

A: Unless you prefer a different timetable, the payment period begins May 2021. The intent card has a place for you to indicate how and when you will fulfill your commitment.

Q: HOW LONG DOES THE APPEAL LAST?

A: The appeal will last for three years: May 2021 – April 2024. However, if you feel you can make a larger gift by extending the time, you are welcome to do so. You may also make a one-time gift or contribute over less than three years.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE TO JUST MAKE GIFTS TO THE APPEAL WITHOUT MAKING A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT?

A: Yes, but written responses, while never legally binding, give us an indication of what we can expect and permit us to plan for our future. Please fill out an intent card indicating how you will respond even if you do not make a commitment. The response from the congregation will be a compelling story as we prepare for even more impactful ministry.

Q: WILL I BE ASKED TO GIVE A SPECIFIC AMOUNT?

A: You will be asked to prayerfully consider an amount based on the gift chart to reach our goal. If every gift on the chart is fulfilled, we will exceed our goal.

Q: WHY ARE WE BEING ASKED TO GIVE TO THE ANNUAL MINISTRY AS WELL AS THE CAMPAIGN AT THE SAME TIME?

A: The annual ministry of the congregation doesn't end just because we are paying down our debt. It has been shown that congregation members prefer to consider their giving at one time and make both commitments. We do need to continue to grow our annual ministry, even while we take steps to fund our future with this capital investment.

Q: DO ALL GIFTS TO THE APPEAL HAVE TO BE CASH?

A: No. Gifts of property, appreciated stock, required minimum distributions, mutual funds, cash value from insurance policies or policy loan proceeds, certificates of deposit (CDs), bonds, and annuities are just some of the ways we can give. All of these gifts may be subject to restrictions and limitations, so it is wise to consult your financial advisor or accountant. *Note: Contact the church office to make non-cash gifts. Important! Do not sell the asset yourself or you will be unable to avoid capital gains tax. If you are trying to capture a capital loss, you may want to sell the asset yourself. Please consult your tax advisor on the best approach for your own circumstances.*

Q: WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF GIVING APPRECIATED STOCKS OR PROPERTY?

A: You can avoid capital gains taxes and possibly also receive a tax deduction in the amount of the appreciated value.

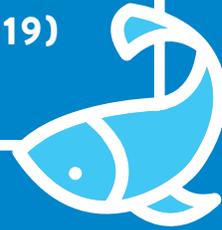
Q: HOW DO I MAKE A GIFT OF APPRECIATED STOCK?

A: Have your broker transfer shares from your account to the church. The church's broker will sell the stock and you will receive gift credit for the average market value on the day it is transferred. Contact the church office for transfer information.

Thank you for being part of this exciting time in our congregation's history.



***I CAME THAT THEY MAY
HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT
ABUNDANTLY (JOHN 10:10)
THEY ALL ATE AND WERE
SATISFIED (MATTHEW 14:19)***



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Lutheran Church

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