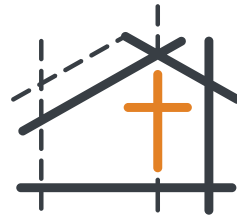


**INFORMATIONAL PACKET**



**BUILDING  
HOPE  
FOR TOMORROW**  
**AMES**



# “ God, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will at Hope Ames? ”

## *Dear Hope family,*

As a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, I used to utter the words, “There’s always next year.” When they won the World Series in 2016, the team’s championship parade was littered with signs that read, “Next year is here!” It finally happened.

Our congregation has learned the faithful balance of being present while keeping an eye on the future. For seven years, we’ve been a church on the move, worshipping at an oil-shop-turned-concert-venue, City Hall, a former tech office, two parks, and a rodeo arena.

***“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?” (Isaiah 43:19).***

God has been with us each step of the way, blessing us with growth in terms of numbers, but look closer, and you’ll discover something even more beautiful. People have experienced the fulfilling power of God’s love. Lost souls have found their home. Christians, whose faith has gone to rest, have come awake, and hurts have met healing by the power of the Holy Spirit!

***“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).***



Meanwhile, we’ve felt called to dream about “tomorrow” when we will get to deepen our roots in Ames with a permanent building – not as a reward for our hard work, but a gift to our community where even more people will be welcomed to a Spirited, Christ-centered, and growing home. During the hundreds of setups and teardowns, I’ve caught myself wondering a few times, ‘When will tomorrow be?’



It's not about constructing walls; it's about opening doors and creating a space where people can feel God's love in real, tangible ways; a place of belonging for the lost and lonely, a space for children to learn and grow in faith, a house of worship where students, parents, friends, and neighbors can encounter God, a launching pad for missions that serve Story County and beyond. It's about a church answering God's call to expand the Kingdom of God!

# It's not about constructing walls; it's about opening doors.

Through miraculous circumstances and the faithfulness of our generous congregation, God has provided us 22.5 acres to build a permanent home where we can serve, connect, and grow! How can we respond? We get to ask God daily over the next month, "What do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for this church?" Will we welcome God to continue his growth in and through us? Will we quiet our lives enough to listen for the way God leads us? Will we respond with a giant-sized leap of faith, trusting God enough to do what he says?

Hope Ames, I believe that tomorrow is here.

I invite you to be a part of Building Hope for Tomorrow. Together, our faith will deepen as we gather to worship, grow in prayer and God's Word, and discover the joy of cheerful giving (no gimmicks, no pressure – just joy!) You can learn more by reading this booklet and visiting our Building Hope for Tomorrow website or by joining us at one of our Vision Meetings (Nov. 7 and 12th at 6:30 PM and November 17th at 10:00 AM between Sunday services).

In Christ,

**Pastor Danny Housholder**



# “For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.”

**Hebrews 3:4**

# THE HEART OF HOPE

## Mission

Reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ.

## Vision

Powered by the Spirit to bring Christ to all cultures, revive the world with God's love and make heaven more crowded!

## Core Values

**Jesus is life. The rest is details.**

*"I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes."  
Romans 1:16*

**Lost people matter to God, so they matter to us.**

*"Your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"  
Luke 15:32*

**We worship God, not tradition.**

*"The time is coming and is already here when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth."  
John 4:23*

**Following Jesus is a growing experience.**

*"...equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ ... that we will be mature and full grown, measuring up to the full stature of Christ."  
Ephesians 4:12-14*

**We are one body, united in Jesus Christ.**

*"Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27*

**Building Hope for Tomorrow is an expression of the mission, vision, and values of Lutheran Church of Hope. By purchasing land in Ames, we are deepening our roots in the community in order to provide a church home where all people are welcome to enjoy the soul-satisfying love of Jesus.**



# DEEPENING ROOTS IN AMES

## 2016

Hope Ames started as a local site — a small worshipping community that gathered to watch Hope West Des Moines' online service — in 2016. We met at what was once an oil shop that had turned into a well-worn miniature concert hall in west Ames.

## 2017

In the spring of 2017, Hope Ames called Danny Housholder to be our pastor. On August 20, we became the sixth campus of Lutheran Church of Hope and began to meet each Sunday at the Ames City Auditorium in downtown Ames. Over that year, attendance grew to an average of 233 people each Sunday.

## 2019

As Hope Ames continued to meet at the Ames City Auditorium, that same old oil shop and concert hall became our office location. It became clear that the 'new' Link was where God was calling us to hold classes, conduct mid-week ministry, hold special events, and where Kairos could meet — at least for a while. That fall, in a campaign called "Hope Dreams," the congregation was able to purchase the building.

## 2021

After 10 months of worshipping virtually during lockdown, Hope Ames was glad to return to in-person worship in 2021. In November that year, the congregation purchased 20 acres of land in north Ames.

## 2023

The year 2023 demonstrated the importance of being attentive to God's voice. The opportunity to purchase 22.5 acres of land located at 4925 Lincoln Way arose, and after careful investigation and much prayer, the congregation voted to sell the land in north Ames and purchase the new parcel. This land, situated in west Ames, contains beautiful natural features like a pond, timber, and sloped terrain that will allow a walk-out lower level in the building. It is also accessible by public transportation and will be a wonderful way to continue to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus!



August 20, 2017: Hope Ames launches as a campus

# GROWING IN FAITH

As of 2024, congregations in the U.S. report 89% attendance compared to pre-pandemic numbers. Hope Ames has experienced 53% **growth** since 2019.

## 332

**Avg. Kairos weekly attendance fall 2024**

## 535

**Avg. Sunday worship attendance since Sept. 2024**

Registration Numbers		
<i>Registrants + Volunteers</i>	2024	2023
HopeKids (age 3-grade 5)	145	146
PowerLife (grades 6-8)	55	53
Ignition (grades 9-12)	33	32
Alpha	56	49

Vacation Bible School (age 3-grade 5)		
	2024	2023
Kids	233	198
Volunteers - Adults & Juniors	95	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>274</b>

Attendance	
Weekly (2024)	465
Christmas Eve '23	1034
Easter '24	946

Kairos Attendance (2024)	
Campanile	1,000+
Weekly	276

Baptisms (2024)	
Baptisms	30
Affirmations	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

Mission Numbers (2024)	
Souper Bowl	6,864 lbs of food (6,717 items)
Hands & Feet Drive	1,131+ pairs socks 60 pairs gloves
Volunteer Spots at Food at First	90+

# DREAMING OF A CHURCH HOME

Building Hope for Tomorrow will allow us to deepen in our mission to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus by building a permanent church home at 4925 Lincoln Way.

God has done amazing things through Hope Ames while it has been a mobile site! We believe that by building a permanent church home, we will be able to pour even more into current and future ministries. Our biggest needs for tomorrow are:

- Worship space
- Child & Family Ministries
- Student Ministries
- College Ministry
- Adult Discipleship
- Missions
- Food pantry



## God is making room for...

### *A home for all*

A gift for the community where all are welcome to experience the love of Jesus.

### *More ministry*

More flexible worship times, classes, group meetings. Able to host weddings, funerals, and other life events.

### *More mission*

Build the foundation for a missions base in west Ames.



*North wall of the worship center*



North walking path, with view of walk-out basement



Southwest aerial, showing multi-phase parking



Southwest view of main entrance



# BUILDING HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Every dollar that is given to Building Hope for Tomorrow will be spent on building a permanent church home!

## Victory Goal: \$2 Million

20,000 square feet

One story

600-700 seat Worship space

Gathering space

Children's & nursery

Kitchen

Prayer path

## Dream Goal: \$2.5 Million

20,000 sq. ft. (finished)  
6,400 sq. ft. (unfinished)

Two stories

700 seat Worship space

Gathering space

Children's & nursery

Classrooms & office space

Kitchen/kitchenette

Partially finished basement

Prayer path

## Miracle Goal: \$3.25 Million

26,400 sq. ft.

Two stories

700 seat Worship space

Gathering space

Children's & nursery

Classrooms & office space

Kitchen/kitchenette

Fully finished basement

Prayer path

At Hope's annual congregational meeting in September 2024, the congregation approved a motion for Hope Ames to construct a building which will cost **no more than \$10.5 million with a loan that will not exceed \$6 million.**

Our three giving goals will go toward a down payment on the building which, combined with the loan, will fully fund the project.

## EVERY GIFT MATTERS!

There is no average gift that we should all strive to reach; the faithfulness of our gifts depends on listening to and obeying God's voice.

The table below demonstrates **an example** of how we might reach our Miracle Goal for Building Hope for Tomorrow.

Number of Pledges	One-Time Gift + Pledge	Subtotal
1	\$500,000	\$500,000
1	\$250,000	\$250,000
6	\$100,000	\$600,000
2	\$75,000	\$150,000
5	\$50,000	\$250,000
12	\$25,000-\$35,000	\$345,000
11	\$20,000	\$220,000
18	\$15,000	\$270,000
20	\$10,000	\$200,000
40	\$5,000-\$7,500	\$237,500
53	\$2,500-\$4,999	\$157,000
45	\$1,000-\$2,499	\$66,700
20	\$1-\$999	\$6,250
<b>Total pledges: 234</b>		<b>Total giving: \$3,252,500</b>

# PREPARING TO BUILD

Larger than meeting financial goals, our ultimate goal is the further discipleship of Hope Ames in our understanding of Biblical stewardship. We see the campaign as an opportunity to directly impact the joy-filled, generous giving of the congregation as well. Regardless of the outcome of the campaign, if we are able to grow in our Biblical understanding and application of God's Word to stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure, the campaign will be a success. To this end, our goals for the campaign will be to:

## Gather

### Weekly Worship

Worship is a spiritual exercise for the body of Christ and a time for intimacy with God, healing for the hurt, sanctuary from the 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.

**Sundays, 9:00 & 10:30 AM  
in the Ames City Auditorium**

### Attend an Informational Meeting

To learn about the vision and mission of Hope Ames, and how you can participate in achieving the goals of the Building Hope for Tomorrow campaign, and to give the people and families of Hope and opportunity to connect with one another. There will be three of these 30-minute meetings (you only need to attend one, though!)

**Thursday, Nov. 7 \*  
6:30 pm at The Link (3329 Lincoln Way)**

**Tuesday, Nov. 12 \*  
6:30 pm at The Link (3329 Lincoln Way)**

**Sunday, Nov. 17  
Roughly 10:00 am (between services)  
at the Ames City Auditorium**

*\*Zoom option available. Please email [info@hopeames.org](mailto:info@hopeames.org) for the Zoom link.*

## Celebrate

All of creation longs to sing praise to our Creator (Psalm 148). The natural practice of our souls is to celebrate who God is, what he has done, and what he has planned.

**1. We're planning a huge all-church party with one service on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am** for the entire church family with a party to follow. We will provide food, enjoy community, and thank God for all the gifts and pledges offered by our church family.

**2. We will reveal the total gifts and pledges on December 8<sup>th</sup> during our worship services** in the Ames City Auditorium and thank God for the generosity of our congregation.

## Grow

### Develop a daily prayer and Scripture routine

Praying and reading scripture daily will develop more effective communication patterns and a deeper bond between you and God. You will also experience life-changing freedom as you immerse yourself in the living Word of God!

How can you do this? Start by making good use of the daily prayer and devotional guide. Commit to pray daily for Building Hope for Tomorrow and prayerfully ask God to guide your giving. We also invite you to a daily (7:00 am and 7:00 pm) time to pray together.

## Give

### Discover the joy of cheerful giving

Find freedom in guilt-free, pressure-free giving; not under compulsion, but cheerfully, generously, and freely!

We find this freedom by understanding 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 Hope for Tomorrow

Give for the sake of fulfilling our 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 Field of Hope on Commitment Sunday – November 24th.

**"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace..."**

***Philippians 4:6-7***

# DISCOVER THE JOY OF CHEERFUL GIVING

“Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure.

‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’”

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

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

## STEP 1

### Pray

Ask God this question: “Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for Hope Ames?”

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

**Philippians 1:6**

## STEP 2

### Listen to God

Keep on 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 – rest in the quiet and calming presence of the Holy Spirit until you do. Be still. Listen to God, not people. God will write a number on your heart, soul, or mind.

## 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). Then you will give as a matter of faith – and thus, experience the joy and freedom of Bible-based giving without anyone, other than God, telling you what to give! Enjoy the feeling!

**Lutheran Church of Hope - Ames  
3329 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50014**

**(515) 760-7550**

**[hopeames.org/buildinghope](http://hopeames.org/buildinghope)**

