

August 2021

PRAISE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praise Lutheran Church
1850 Big Springs Rd
Maryville, TN 37801
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(865) 977-5810
*A member congregation
of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod.*

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Prayer Calendar (a gift for you to place on your refrigerator and pray with us every day)



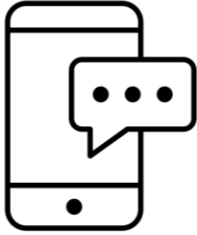
GET “THE SCOOP”

[YOU'RE INVITED TO PRAISE'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON WED, AUGUST 4, AT 6:30 P.M.](#)

Here's the “scoop” on our ice cream social scheduled for August 4th, 6:30 p.m. at Praise Lutheran Church. We'll have plenty of ice cream and information about what God has begun to work in and among us for the sake of His Son, Jesus.

- Our special guest speaker will be Campaign Director **Ed Hannah** (see pg 3)
- Build Committee representative **Jim Roberts** will give a presentation with slides of our new building design in the sanctuary.
- During the presentation, youth will participate in some fun “kids-only” activities, arranged by **Shelby Hicks** and **Daniel Hendricks**. (Don't worry, kids, you'll have a chance to fill up on ice cream first!)

We will hold prize drawings throughout the evening. Don't miss out! Contact our office at (865) 977-5810 or speak to our Inform Director **Sonja Ratliff** for more details about the event.



Get a text message called Living Stones (a daily prayer and verse from our prayer team):

Simply text the word **PRAY** to **(888) 240-6175**. You'll get a text back that says, "Welcome to Living Stones! You will receive your first daily message..."

Your Capital Campaign Prayer Team, directed by **Paul Ruble**, encourages you to subscribe and pray from August 1 (Inform Sunday) until October 31 (Reformation Day).

Note: unsubscribe anytime simply by texting STOP in reply to a daily text from the number above.

See also our Prayer Calendar on page 4 of this newsletter.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

"YOU YOURSELVES LIKE LIVING STONES ARE BEING BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE"

1 PETER 3:5

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, August 1, we officially launch our capital campaign: ***Living Stones: Building Upon the Rock***. This will be an important and exciting time for our congregation. Our goal is to expand the worship, fellowship, and discipleship of Praise Lutheran Church. The new church building and renovation of our current space are but a means to help us grow in grace and share (all the more) the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Rock upon which we have been built. As Living Stones, we endeavor to build upon that firm foundation, build up our community through acts of service, and invite others into a rock solid (Biblical and Sacramental) life with Christ.

We will have opportunities to celebrate what God has done and continues to do among us. We will also find ourselves getting excited about future possibilities in the areas of mission and ministry that the Lord will open for us. This campaign may challenge us and make us uncomfortable as we (re-)learn the concepts of sacrificial giving. We will also work together, grow together, and pray together as a house of living stones. We know that God can do immeasurably more than we imagine or think.

I ask that you, along with me, would commit yourselves to this Capital Campaign process over the next couple of months. Together we will seek to use our time, our unique talents, and our bountiful gifts to do our unique parts. Also, we all will determine our measure of a three-year sacrificial gift over and above our regular tithes and offerings. I know that none of us want to get stuck between a rock and a hard place. So let's all go forth in faith together and see how God will bless and direct us. He has promised to open doors for the sake of His Son's truth and love. We will be wise, sacrificial, savvy, and satisfied (content) with whatever God wills and accomplishes. At the end of the campaign, I am confident there will be plenty of reasons to give God thanks and praise.

In this newsletter you will again see the faces of those who have volunteered to be part of the leadership team for the campaign — those who will organize and direct various areas of this journey. You may still be asked to be a part of a team. It will be a short, specific, and important task. Please say "yes" when asked to participate. Please pray for our journey together. And please commit yourself to help build upon the Rock with those precious Living Stones that God has gathered together at Praise for His glory, worship, and honor.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Derek Roberts

MEET OUR CAMPAIGN LEADERS

THESE MEMBERS OF PRAISE HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO LEAD, COORDINATE, INSPIRE, AND DIRECT THE TEAMS WORKING ON PRAISE LUTHERAN'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Pictured above: Ed and Susan Hannah, members of Praise Lutheran Church. Ed serves as Praise Lutheran's Capital Campaign Director and invites your prayer and participation in the campaign.

Greetings from our Capital Campaign Director

I am so thankful to be one of the "living stones" among the Praise Lutheran family. From the most senior member down to the newest born, the feeling of "family" makes me eager to participate any time the doors open. I am humbled that the build team invited me to serve as capital campaign director, and it is an honor to work with and for you. I pledge my total support to our Father in Heaven and "the Praise family" to do my best throughout the campaign as we witness the vision come to fruition. The additional facilities will enhance our worship, strengthen our family fellowship, and provide discipleship opportunities that will add more "living stones" to our family. I am so impressed by the energy and dedication of those who have stepped forward to serve in key leadership roles. Together and with your support, we will be successful reaching our goal.

In Christ's love and peace,

Ed Hannah

Top row: Lead Gifts Director Chuck Pettyjohn, Campaign Director Ed Hannah, Pastor Derek Roberts, Prayer Director Paul Ruble, Inform & Inspire Director Sonja Ratliff

Bottom row: Youth/Children's Emphasis Co-Directors Daniel Hendricks & Shelby Hicks, Impact Phase Director Joel Morsch, Communications Director Cathy Wacker; Follow-up Director Alan Stremsterfer, Commitment Celebration Director Lisa Stremsterfer, Congregational President Tom Wittkopp

Not pictured: Campaign Coordinator Barbara Morsch, Mid-South LCMS District Vice President Paul Reaves, LCEF Ministry Solutions Consultant Pastor Phil Robarge



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Inform Sunday 1 Lord, fulfill your purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Ps. 138:8b	2 Provide laborers for Your harvest, Lord. Matt. 9:37b	3 Help us to know the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward us. Eph. 1:19a	Ice Cream Social 4 Help us be good stewards of Your grace to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10	5 O guiltless Savior, forgive my sins. "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Lk. 23:41-42	6 We trust you, Lord, to do immeasurably more than we can imagine in and through us! Eph. 3:20-21	7 Enlarge our hearts O God! Help us run in the way of your commandments. Ps. 119:32
8 Re-focus our minds on You and Your faithfulness when the circumstances seem uncertain. Gen. 50:19	9 O Lord, can we drink from the cup and taste what You endured? Help us be grateful. Matt. 20:22	10 Lead us to quiet waters, O God. Provide Your best for Your sheep! Psalm 23	11 For by grace You have saved us through faith. This is not our own doing. Thank you, God. Eph. 2:8	12 Lord, we remember Your words, that You would die and on the third day, rise. Luke 24:6-8a	13 We know that we cannot serve You, O God, and the gods of this world. Help us to serve You alone. Mt. 6:24b	14 Help us to invite others to "come and see" dear Lord. John 1:45-46
15 You see us and know us God. Provide for all of our needs. Ex. 2:25	16 Intercede for us O Holy Spirit when we don't know how to pray. Rom. 8:26-27	17 Father, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Jesus. Eph. 1:17	18 Prosper us and refresh us, O Lord. Help us to be generous as You are with us. Pr. 11:25	19 Help us to go as You send and speak as You command. Jer. 1:7b	20 Strengthen our faith and hope in You, Lord and our love for each other. 1 Cor. 13:13	21 Shine through us and make us a city on a hill, O God. Matt. 5:14
22 As we fear You, God, prosper us and our descendants to Your glory. Ps. 25:12-14	23 We want to live by faith, not by sight. Help us O Lord! 2 Cor. 5:7	24 Counsel us with your loving eye on us, Lord. Ps. 32:8	25 Allow our generosity to produce thanksgiving to You, O God. 2 Cor. 9:11	26 Keep us blameless before You, Lord. Phil. 2:14-16	27 Help us to walk in the light of Your face, O God. Psalm 89:15	28 Help those who worship with us hear Your word clearly O God. Romans 10:17
29 Enhance our worship space where we can meditate on Your Word. Ps. 1:1-2	30 Thank you for our resources. Help us to give generously. 2 Cor. 8:3-5	31 Help us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Micah 6:8	September: 1 You love a cheerful giver! Help us give as You call. 2 Cor. 9:7	2 Make new disciples through our joyful proclamations, Lord! Matt. 28:19-20	3 Show us the best way to love our neighbors. Matt. 22:37-39	4 Help us provide excellent space to teach Your children dear Lord. Deut. 6:6-7



Inform Sunday, Aug 1

The launch of our Capital Campaign. The focus of this month is to learn, spread the word, and pray for one another and the possibilities that our expansion will bring.

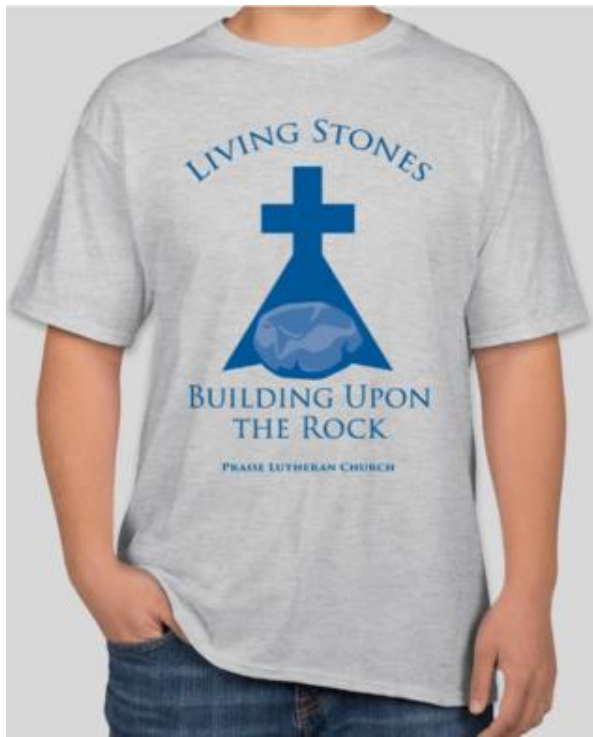
Ice Cream Social, Aug 4

Come enjoy homemade ice cream and deserts. Crafts for kids! Drawings for gift certificates. Learn about Praise's plans to expand the worship, discipleship, and fellowship. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MONTH:

Pray on the Border, Sept 5

At the end of the Divine Service, we'll gather around the border where the new building will stand and pray together that God would bless the land for His plans and purposes.



Living Stones Swag

Wear the dream of expanding the worship, the fellowship, and the discipleship of Praise Lutheran Church and share the Gospel of Him who is the Rock of our salvation.

T-shirts will arrive in the first week of August, hopefully just in time for the Ice Cream Social. We ordered a variety of sizes and the shirts are available in two colors: ash (grey) or light blue.



Suggested donation of \$10-\$15 per shirt. If you wish to donate electronically, visit praiselutheran.com, or bring cash, or make out a check to Praise Lutheran Church.

Pray with us!

Gracious God, Lord of the universe,

You have blessed the saints at Praise Lutheran Church with a wonderful challenge. Our flock has grown to exceed the walls that are dear to us. We have imagined a larger, better-equipped building in which to gather for feeding on Your Word and receiving Your sacraments. We desire to spread the Gospel message of salvation, love, grace, and mercy obtained by the sacrificial exchange through the life and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and to receive more "living stones" into your church on earth.

In our weakness, we ask that You bless this church expansion, sustain our pastor, guide our leadership team and inspire our members, through prayer, to become the "immeasurably more" part of this ministry.

Sustain us Lord, when we are tired and doubtful, embolden us when fearful, for Your love and mercy shine brighter than any darkness.

You are the Master Builder, who has set His "Cornerstone" and pulled the line straight. "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matt.7:24

Guide us in the building of Your church,

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Praise Lutheran Church
1850 Big Springs Rd
Marville, TN 37801



What's Inside:

Learn about Praise Lutheran Church's exciting Capital Campaign: Ice Cream Social, t-shirts, letter from the Pastor, meet the leaders, subscribe to our daily text prayers and Bible verse, and a prayer calendar for your refrigerator.