

**LIVING STONES**  
**CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN**  
**NEWSLETTER 2**

September  
2021

# PRaise

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praise Lutheran Church  
1850 Big Springs Rd  
Maryville, TN 37801  
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*A member congregation of The  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

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From the Pastor's Desk

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



### **Upcoming Events: A Message from Inform & Inspire Director Sonja Ratliff**

As we approach September, we look forward to many events intended to "Inspire" us in this campaign. The first event is called "**Pray Around the Border**" near the end of the 11:00 a.m. Divine Service on Sept 5. Members and friends will gather and pray where the new building will stand, asking for God's hand of blessing. A drone will fly above to film the event for posterity. Rev. David Graves of Wartburg, TN, Circuit Visitor of the Mid-South District-LCMS will be preaching and assisting in the prayers. A potluck lunch in the social hall will follow. There is a sign-up sheet if you would like to bring food.

Pastor will have special Bible studies on each of the four Sundays in September intended to inspire the congregation, based on the Biblical theme from 1 Peter 2:5.

Finally, on September 23 at 6:00 pm, we will have a **Commitment Dinner at the beautiful Capitol Theatre** in downtown Maryville. It will be announced on their marquee with a red-carpet entrance. RSVPs will be required. Dinner will be catered by Jeff Baerns, with our youth group serving us. The attire is business casual, but feel free to dress up if you like.



### A Stewardship Story from Pastor Roberts

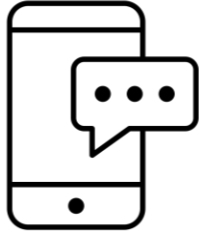
When we moved to Tennessee 15 years ago for my call to be a pastor in Knoxville, we found ourselves in a whole new phase in life. Fresh out of seminary and 4 years of low-income housing (which was a blessing to us during those years!), we were more than ready to discover all the blessings and challenges of the new state, city, and parish where God had placed us. We had never been to Tennessee before and were so excited!

We came for our first visit and immediately looked for a house to call home. Thankfully, because of generous LCMS churches and Christians throughout the United States, and because Gretchen worked full time throughout most of our seminary years, we graduated with no debt. We even had some money (a couple thousand dollars) in our seminary account to donate back in order to help another student. We had little to nothing in savings, but we experienced so much generosity that we wanted to start being generous right away out of thanks to God for all He has done for us. Going into seminary, we didn't know how we were going to pay for everything. Leaving seminary, we were amazed at how God provided beyond what we could imagine or think.

A few years into parish life and having purchased a wonderful 109-year-old home near the church, we were introduced to Nashville's famous financial coach, Dave Ramsey. We put many of Dave's principles into practice and these worked very well for us.

As taught by the Scriptures, Gretchen and I prioritize giving first and foremost towards the work of the ministry where we serve. We use a written budget and place charity/gifts at the top of our budget and determine that amount annually before all other expenses. Beyond supporting the ministry of our own congregation, we find joy in giving gifts to missions outside of the congregation, such as when Gretchen's father was serving as the resident LCMS professor in Novosibirsk, Russia; the local Pregnancy Resource Center in Maryville; and the capital campaign for a church that was very influential in my call to seminary, University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis.

One day, we plan to leave a generous legacy gift for the work of Christ's ministry on earth. Even as we work on that goal, we have already planned to give a sacrificial gift towards Praise's capital campaign to expand the ministry. Like other gifts of the sort, this gift will be over and above our regular giving. God has blessed us to be a blessing for this time, place, and purpose. We are doing this with you, our beloved church family, because together we are *Living Stones: Building Upon the Rock*.



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 now 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.*



**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 "Living Stones" of Praise Lutheran Church,

I continue to be amazed by the energy and excitement centered around our capital campaign. The leaders and their team members remain highly engaged. Our August focus has been to inform, to listen and to respond to your comments and questions about the plans for adding the much-needed space for our growing congregation. The added feedback you provide helps to make the overall plan more complete for our future needs.

As we make the transition into the Inspire phase of our journey, it is time to give serious consideration and prayer for your personal commitment. Each and every contribution will go toward "Building on the Rock" to further the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior.

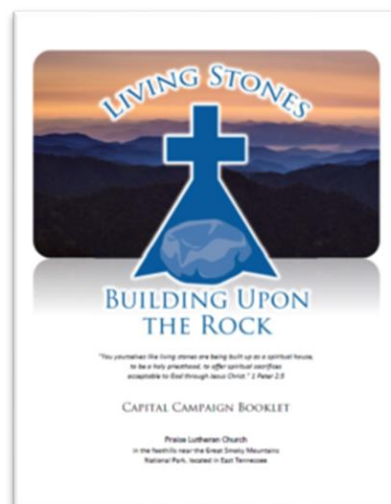
You have heard me share what Praise Lutheran Church means to me. It is the "fellowship of believers" that makes our time together so very special. Our collective vision will help address the growing spiritual needs of our wonderful community. As reflected by Matthew 15:14, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Thank you,

*Ed Hannah*

Capital Campaign Director

P.S. Don't forget to read the *Capital Campaign Booklet* (pictured below) which is available at church or download at [praiselutheran.com/build](http://praiselutheran.com/build)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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
<b>Pray Around the Border</b> 5 Gracious God, bless us with the resources to build this new church home for Your glory and the continued outpouring of Your Holy Word. Amen. 1 Cor. 3:9	6 Embolden praise in its efforts to reach out. Deut. 31:6	7 Increase our generosity of time, talents, and treasures. 1 Tim. 6:18	8 God, the task of building a new church seems overwhelming. Guide, provide, and help us trust and believe in You. Mark 9: 24b	9 Make us bold to share the love of Jesus. Prov. 28:1	10 We wish to serve one another in love. Gal. 5:13	11 Almighty God, thank you for Your love and salvation. Bless us with willingness to share our faith and joy. We trust in Your provision. Heb. 11:1
12 Give our church and campaign leaders the wisdom to make God-pleasing decisions. James 1:5	13 Guide our leaders to be diligent and thorough. 2 Chron. 24:13	14 May we share Your gift of salvation with all generations. Ps. 78:4	15 We ask for consensus and measured words as we move forward. 1 Tim 2:6	16 Father, Your kingdom will stand forever. We worship and praise You. Heb. 12:28	17 We look to You, in faith. Heb. 11:10	18 Oh God, You first loved us. May we share that love always. 2 Cor. 6:16
19 Almighty God, prepare our hearts to build Your church and join with fellow believers to sing songs of praise to You. Amen. (Ezra 1:5 NIV)	20 Thank you, God, for the abundant blessings you share with us daily. Ps. 100:4	21 Fill us with the hope that only comes from you, Lord. Rom. 5:3-5	22 Increase our ability to share Christ with more families. Phil. 2:4	<b>Commitment Dinner</b> 23 Thank you, God, for growing Your church in number, faith, and love. Thank you for the faithful teaching of Your Holy Word. Acts 16:5	24 Father, light our way to understanding our Christ, the mystery of God. Col. 2:2	25 Lord, we give You all the glory. Please bless Praise Lutheran Church. Ps. 23:6
26 Father, bless our efforts to spread Your kingdom. Show us the paths. Deut. 28:12	27 We look to You Lord, in faith. Heb. 11:10	28 Jesus, Your cross, symbol of shame, is our symbol of love. Gal. 6:14	29 Father, Your love knows no bounds, teach us to share it. 1 John 4:16	30 Teach us to first seek You in all things. Matt. 6:33	October: 1 Father, as Your plans span many generations, may we do our part. Gen 17:7	2 Help us to step out in faith. 1 Tim. 6:12



**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.

**Commitment Dinner, Sept 23**

Located at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Maryville at 6 pm. RSVP is required. Dinner will be catered by Jeff Baerns and served by our youth group. Attire is business casual, but you can dress up if preferred.

**NEXT MONTH:**

**Living Stones Octoberfeast, Oct 3, following 11:00 a.m. service**

Our Sunday morning time to gather, eat together, pray, and make 3 year commitments for the build. Jeff Baerns will prepare the food.



## 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.

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](http://praiselutheran.com), or bring cash, or make out a check to Praise Lutheran Church.



Heavenly Father,

We gratefully acknowledge Your will in establishing Praise Lutheran Church and the work of Your Holy Spirit drawing, teaching, and inspiring this congregation together for the purpose of bringing Your Gospel to all generations in this community.

We beseech You, Father, to guide each one of us, in faith, to a financial commitment for the expansion of this ministry. Faith in Your will and power has never failed, from the beginning of time. Give us this faith, to Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Praise Lutheran Church  
1850 Big Springs Rd  
Marville, TN 37801



## What's Inside:

Learn about Praise Lutheran Church's exciting Capital Campaign: Prayer on the Border, t-shirts, read messages from our Pastor and from our director, subscribe to our daily text prayers and Bible verse, and a prayer calendar for your refrigerator.