

October 2021

PRAISE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praise Lutheran Church
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A member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

Message from Gifts Director

PG. 3

How to Plan a Charitable Gift

PG. 4

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

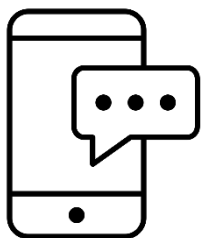


Our God is an AWESOME God

On September 23rd, 2021, approximately 100 members and guests of our Praise Lutheran family met at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Maryville for an evening together—complete with a meal and entertainment! Our purpose for gathering was to offer an opportunity so that those members who wished to make an early commitment to our Capital Campaign could do so.

Forty-two member families (and four supportive friends of the congregation) took the occasion to fill out their 3-year commitment cards, and since that evening several others have also brought early commitments. As of Sunday afternoon, September 26th, the combined total of early commitments is \$753,661! (This represents 38% of our total build goal!) TO GOD BE THE GLORY—WHAT A GREAT WORK HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE INSPIRATION OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT!

See pictures and read more about the commitment event on page 3...



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.

A Message from Gifts Director Chuck Pettyjohn

Greetings to you from the "Gifts Committee" of the Praise Lutheran Church Capital Campaign. Our purpose is to inspire you to make a personal commitment to the three-year process of reaching our goal of financing the construction of a new addition to our existing church property—the addition of a new sanctuary, new classrooms, a nursery, and new office space.

Over the past few months we have reviewed our founding in the year 2000, followed the locations and the growth through the years on East Broadway, then Gill Street, the use of the church facility on Fairview Drive, and finally the purchase of our present location on Big Springs Road in 2007. We give thanks and praise to God for sending us faithful pastors to teach and preach, and share the Word and sacraments faithfully with us, starting with Pastor Bob Kerekes, Pastor Tim Rake, and in 2012 the calling of Pastor Derek Roberts.

After starting in 2000 as the result of a Bible study class of approximately 12 people, our congregation has grown to over 220 members—and we find ourselves needing to offer two services on Sunday mornings to be able to adequately welcome our members and guests. We began our expansion program in 2019, and after a pause of just over a year due to Covid restrictions, we are now in the early stages of raising the capital necessary to follow through in what can only be described as a "Holy Spirit"-inspired program to honor the personal and congregational blessings so very richly bestowed by God. The capital raised will enable us to continue to answer God's call to us to spread the Gospel message in this part of his kingdom!

During June and July, the capital campaign workers have energetically used a variety of meetings and publications to ensure that our congregation—and many friends of our congregation—are aware of the need to raise the funds necessary for the success of this expansion program. We've attempted to make our goal of raising 2 million dollars widely known, and we have used numerous venues to ask you to prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute to this effort. Our ability to meet this goal will, of necessity, require each of us to be willing to sacrificially donate above what we normally give as an offering.

We know that many of you have been considering your gift for some time and are ready to make a commitment. There are commitment cards and envelopes in the Narthex at church as well as [online](#), and you are invited to fill the card out and put it in the offering plate in the sanctuary at any time. If you would appreciate more time to discuss your commitment with your family, or with your financial advisor, there will be future opportunities to make your commitment. It is our goal to have a "Commitment Celebration" service on October 31st, and we ask that all commitments be submitted by then. A "First Fruits Dedication" service is planned for Nov 14th.

I urge all of us to acknowledge the God-given blessings in our lives—our families, our health, our careers—our very salvation! As Christ Himself proclaimed, as recorded in John 6:65, "this is why I told you that NO ONE can come to me unless THE FATHER HAS ENABLED THEM." God's gift of eternal life with Him! Keep in mind that giving is a matter of priority. Giving is a matter of willingness—NOT a matter of wealth! Giving is a matter of opportunity and joy—NOT a matter of obligation. Have this thought as you consider—as you have been blessed by God, give back to Him prayerfully, thoughtfully, willingly, sacrificially, and cheerfully. Let all be done in prayer so that our ministry expansion can become a reality by His gracious blessing, not by our strivings and efforts.

I humbly ask you to pray this steward's prayer: "Lord God, Heavenly Father, Creator and Giver of all things: accept praise and gratitude for the abundant blessings you have given me. You have given beyond my necessities, and I am humbled by your goodness. Please grant me a heart of faith that will trust more fully and act more courageously because of your abundant blessings. Keep me mindful of the great work of redemption you have accomplished for me and all people through Jesus Christ My Lord. Enable me to speed this Good News by committing my support in a way that is pleasing in your sight. I earnestly pray in Jesus' name, AMEN."

How to Plan a Charitable Gift

As part of our Capital Campaign, we invited attorney Jeff Roettger to speak about planning a charitable gift and he explained why estate plans are beneficial. Check out the recording of his live presentation given on September 16, 2021. He also generously shared with us his [slides](#) (pdf).

[Video](#) | [Slides](#)

or find them on praiselutheran.com/build



Thanks to **Smith & Cole** (Billye Raye Smith and Robert Cole) for their wonderful entertainment and a preview of their upcoming Christmas show.

Thanks also to **Jeff Baerns** and our **Youth Servers** for their wonderful service at the Capitol!

ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

...continued from page 1



To those members who were unable to attend the event at the theater, we want to assure you that your support is still anticipated as we ALL share in this project as “Living Stones—Building Upon the Rock!” We would ask that you continue in your prayerful consideration of how you can help in our effort to expand our ministry in this part of Christ’s Kingdom. Have this thought as you consider: As you have been blessed by God, give back to him prayerfully, thoughtfully, willingly, sacrificially, and cheerfully! Let all be done in prayer so that our ministry expansion can be a reality by HIS GRACIOUS BLESSING, not by our striving and efforts.

On October 31st (Reformation Day), we will come together for our Commitment Sunday celebration. We will celebrate the gifts already given and welcome commitments if you have not yet done so. If you will be unable to attend this celebration, submit your commitment card any time before the 31st.

On November 14th, we will have a First Fruits Dedication for initial submissions of funds brought to church that day for the build. We will also bring our commitments to the altar in order to dedicate them to the Lord of the Church.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Chuck Pettyjohn
Gifts Director on behalf of the Gifts Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 We pray for resources to build a large sanctuary. Lord, hear our prayer. Isaiah 65:24	4 Strengthen me, Lord, to remain true to my faith. Acts 14:22	5 Dear God, as we are transformed by You, let us know Your will. Rom. 12:2	6 Almighty God, search me and know my anxious thoughts. Let me turn to You immediately in time of need. Matt. 6:7-8	7 Dear God, We desire that all people come to know Jesus, as Lord. John 17:8	8 Lord, Your Word and sacrament give hope to the lost. Rom. 15:4	9 Lord, be the Rock and Foundation of our hearts, our homes, and our church by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Jude 20-21
10 Almighty God, Help us cling to our eternal hope in you as we prepare to build our new church home.	11 Lord, thank you for your gifts. Help us to share them. John 14:6	12 Lord God, give us the spirit of discovery and joy. Ps. 53:2	13 Teach us to share your love and mercy with others and thus expand your ministry. 1 Thess. 3:10	14 Almighty God, instruct us in the way we should go. Ps. 143:8	15 Dear God, give us faith to believe that which we do not yet see. Mark 9:23	16 We ask for God's continued blessings to expand our ministry. Acts 10:31
17 Lord God, draw others to Your saving grace through the preaching and teaching of Your Holy Word. Matt. 11:28	18 Father, may Your Spirit flood us and our community. Make us ready! Amos 5:24	19 Lord, Help us to grow in faith. May our 'light' shine brightly. 2 Thess. 3:2	20 Father, Help us to see Your vision for us and for mankind. Ps. 142:2	21 Pray with confidence in the name of Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:20	22 Lord help us, in your ministry, to reach out for those searching for You. Jer. 29:7	23 Pray in the Spirit at all time with every kind of prayer and petition. Eph 6:18
24 Almighty God, We ask for Your continued blessings as we work together to build a new space to worship You.	25 Our Shepherd, You leave the 99 to seek the lost 1. Thank you. John 21:15	26 Sovereign God, Ever faithful, strengthen us we pray. Deut. 31:6	27 Oh Lord, may our joy reach You and our community. Jude 21-22	28 Devote you heart and soul to seeking the Lord. 1 Chron. 22:19	29 Dear God, May our praise for you increase. Lord, hear our prayer. Ps. 67:3	30 Dear God, Let Your hand be with us as we expand the ministry at Praise, Maryville. 1 John 3:1
Octoberfeast 31 (Reformation Day) Lord Jesus, be our Cornerstone and Your Holy Word will be the firm foundation upon this place of worship. Zechariah. 8:9	November 1 Oh God, You call people to a Royal Priesthood. Show us how to help. Daniel 7:18	2 Lord, May our works and vision be acceptable in Your sight. 1 Tim 2:8	3 Dear God, we desire to spread the Gospel of salvation to more of our neighbors. Acts 4:12	4 Dear God. Please help us spread Your gift of eternal life. Rom. 6:23	5 Dear God, We fear, love and trust You above all things. Bless our expansion. Heb. 12:28	6 Almighty God, open our hearts to go out into the world and welcome into Your church those who have yet to know you as Lord and Savior. 1 Cor. 3:9



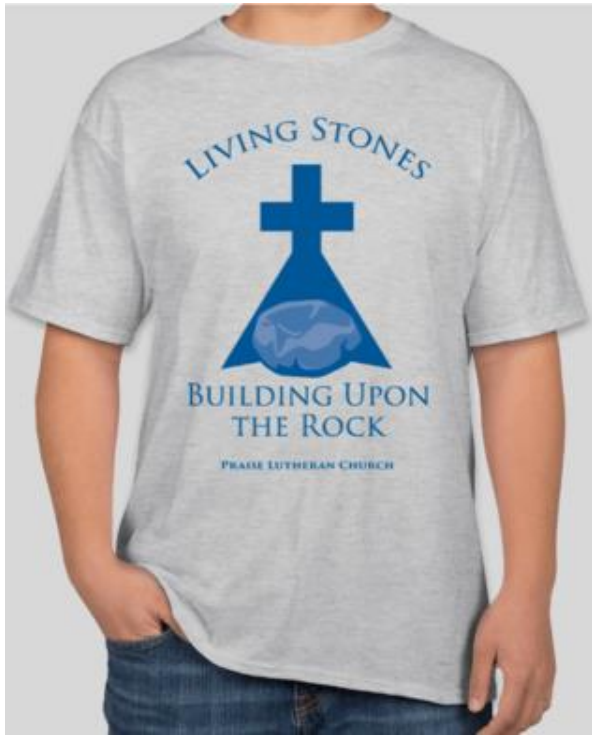
Living Stones Octoberfeast, Oct 31, following 11:00 a.m. service

Our Sunday morning time to gather, eat, pray, and make 3-year commitments for the build. Jeff Baerns will prepare the food. Members will supply side dishes and desserts. Sign-up at church.

NEXT MONTH:

First Fruits Dedication

On November 14, following 11:00 am service we will gather to dedicate the first fruits and present our commitments to the Lord.



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, or bring cash, or make out a check to Praise Lutheran Church.



Lord God, Heavenly Father,

We give you thanks for Praise Lutheran Church of Maryville, Tennessee. Your Gospel message has increased the size of this fellowship.

And whether we have experienced the last 20 years' growth personally or have newly made this church our home, we are blessed by our pastor and our congregational leaders as we hold the vision of growing Christ's Kingdom on earth in an expanded church facility. Lord, we seek Your guidance. Please strengthen each of us in our commitment to the growth of this ministry.

The Apostle Peter writes, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."* 1 Peter 4:10

Our glory is in Christ Jesus. To Him be the power and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

LIVING STONES



BUILDING UPON
THE ROCK

COMMITMENT CELEBRATION DINNER

“Living Stones Oktoberfeast”



October 31, 2021 - Following 2nd Service

Brats, Chicken, Sauerkraut, Tea & Sodas

Bring a Dish to Enjoy Together



What's Inside:

Learn about Praise Lutheran Church's Capital Campaign: Commitment Sunday on Oct 31st, see pictures from the Capitol Theatre event, t-shirts, read a message from our Gifts Director Chuck Pettyjohn, and subscribe to our daily text prayers and Bible verse, and a prayer calendar for your refrigerator.