

HOME *away from* HOME



LIVING FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. - John 14:2

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Letter from the Pastor

Hey Living Faith Family!

and I do mean family. We are somewhat unique as a congregation because we don't just nod our heads and say 'we are brothers and sisters in Christ.' The people at Living Faith ACT like they are family members! We

laugh with each other, celebrate with each other, tease each other and of course weep and mourn with each other. We care about each other in a way that is much more than a casual 'good to see you' on a Sunday morning.

It's a family that welcomes new members into our fold - even when it's awkward and unsettling at first, like the time your sister brought her fiancé to Thanksgiving dinner and you realize 'we're going to be family now and I don't even know what to talk to him about'. Even if he likes Nascar, golf and the New England Patriots, you can eventually find common ground in that you both love your sister.

In our family, we have the solid, common ground of our Savior Jesus. Some of us have been family since the beginning of the church and some are brand new to 'Thanksgiving dinner', but one thing is for sure: Our family is healthy, happy and GROWING. And let's face it, we've outgrown our current space.

Don't get me wrong - it was the right size for us when our family was brand new. One hundred and twenty people in worship and a preschool of 14 kids didn't need more than the current square footage or individual rooms, but we've grown to an average in worship that's creeping towards 200 and a preschool of around 100 kids (with a wait list)! We are a maturing and growing family still in our starter home!

It's time for our grownup church to make grownup decisions that will require grownup commitment. It's clear that some of the kids need their own rooms now and our lack of kitchen space is making family meals all but impossible. Not to mention we could really use some better facilities to host our guests!

This expansion and renovation will be a blessing to our entire church and preschool family by allowing us to experience in our church home today a preview of our eternal home that is to come. And best of all, it will allow us to more effectively invite and welcome those in our communities who remain spiritually homeless.

I invite you to begin your prayerful consideration of how you might contribute your time, talents and, of course, your treasure to this investment in our Home Away from Home.



Letter from the Campaign Director

Living Faith Family and Friends,

It is an exciting time at Living Faith! By every measure, we are growing AND thriving as a church family who is "Living" its faith. New families, greater worship numbers, calling Pastor Dan, expanding and rebooting Home Groups,

holding Bible studies of all shapes and sizes, appreciating strong leadership and congregational engagement at every level, a thriving preschool, experiencing life changing mission engagements at home and around the globe... I could go on. The Living Faith journey has been blessed by God with challenges and opportunities that have molded and stretched us into the Congregation we are today.

My family journey is intertwined in so many ways with that of our church. It started for our young family nearly 20 years ago when we moved to the Des Moines area. Like many who enter a new community, there are many things on the list, including "church shopping". During the first year, we visited many Lutheran churches before visiting SOTV, Clive Campus (soon to become Living Faith). The feeling of home, scriptural teaching and welcoming people who engaged us and wanted to get to know our family decided it for Joanne

and me! I believe that resonates with many of you, too, as it has become who we are in our vision statement: "Living Faith is a Christian community dedicated to bringing you home to the God you are missing through Biblical teaching in a relaxed setting." Over the years, the Congregation has faced many challenges and opportunities: Becoming Living Faith, starting Little Friends Preschool, weathering a pastoral vacancy, staffing changes, financial challenges, Kenya missions, and congregational growth. Through each of these, we have grown as a Christian family while staying true to who we are and how we can bring God's word to those who need a home. We have been blessed.

Our "physical" home has never been the selling point of Living Faith. Our focus has been where it has needed to be. We have made do without a kitchen, been creative with our space utilization and done without many times. As we strive to reach those in our community who need a Christian home, our facilities have now become a true limitation and our next challenge blessing. We CAN do more and reach more people. In fact, it's clear that God is calling us to do so. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can participate in building our Home Away from Home so that we can share what we know to be special at Living Faith.

You are invited... to join the campaign!

Pray God will guide and bless Living Faith as we work to accomplish these tasks.

Attend the upcoming inspire town hall meetings to *learn* more about why we're pursuing this expansion and how we can accomplish it.

Attend upcoming events to *support* the Preschool

Volunteer your time and talents to the campaign

Consider how God has blessed you.

Pray for God's guidance as you consider sacrificially *responding* to God's grace with a financial pledge.



Letter from the Preschool Director

Walking into the front doors...

of Living Faith during the week is very different than when you enter on Sunday! Little Friends students and their parents fill the atrium as they wait for the preschools classroom doors to open. Teachers

soon open the doors and welcome the students in. Parents hang out by the doors and visit with each other and plan playdates. Friendships are made during these busy times. Mrs. Sandy is always at the front doors with a Good Morning and a smile. This busy frenzy passes quickly as students settle into their classrooms and parents head out to enjoy the next 4 hours. That is right! Little Friends classes are from 9:00 until 1:00. No other preschool in the area offers this amount of time.

Students in the classroom will sing, read Bible stories and learn how special they are to God. They will also learn about art, literacy, math, science and practice being a good friend to their classmates. Much of this happens during playtime inside and out on the playground. Teachers have ongoing training to ensure that their skills are sharp and that they are using educational practices that engage and challenge each student. Everyone is different and at Little Friends it is our hope for everyone to succeed. Offering Student Support to those that need, speech, academic and behavioral assistance is another unique feature at Little Friends.

The family feeling continues for the parents as well. Parents enjoy coffee times, parenting classes and working as volunteers at school events. There are many hours spent working alongside each other and life long friendships are formed. Parents also need a little extra help from time to time. Staff on all levels enjoy their opportunities to encourage families.

The first 17 years of Little Friends has seen this program grow from 14 students and 7 staff, to 97 students and 13 staff. While that is a big jump, it could be even more. Right now, Little Friends is limited to how many students can be accepted into our classrooms. There are many families that are sitting on waiting lists hoping for their chance to join this program. Little Friends is hoping through this expansion to add 3 additional classrooms to our program. This would allow us to expand our program by an additional 70-80 students. Another benefit would be that families could choose to add before and after care or summer camp programming to fill in the months of June, July and August. This would round out the year for families and maintain their educational and spiritual engagement.

This growth will extend the classrooms and extend our services, but mostly extend the kingdom of God. More children will receive the life changing, good news of Jesus. They will be encouraged to build a personal relationship with God and to walk in the path that is laid out for each of us in the Bible. This ministry will continue to grow and share this love with those that so desperately need it!



Ministry Expansion

Home Away From Home

In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

We all know it's true: there's something special about Living Faith church and preschool. I've even called it the secret sauce several times in my Sunday morning sermons! That special something, of course, is the Spirit of God doing His work; and that work has been happening despite our constraints of gathering spaces, food prepping and serving capabilities, meeting spaces, preschool classrooms, office spaces, youth ministry space, children's ministry spaces...well, significant facility constraints to say the least! I know when someone new has encountered the secret sauce when they tell me some variant of 'I don't know, it just feels like home here.'

Now I want to be clear about this; that special something doesn't need a new facility to stay special. The Holy Spirit dwells in people, not buildings. This building project has a singular focus: More people more deeply encountering that special something at Living Faith church and preschool.

That means the people already here will have the opportunity to grow more deeply in their faith and relationship to their savior Jesus, as well as more people who don't have that relationship with Jesus yet at all.

Which brings us to the most important thing to remember; This isn't a building project. It's a Kingdom project.

We simply cannot build a monument to ourselves or a trophy for our mantle. Rather, we must be committed to the works that God our Father has prepared for us as part of his Kingdom by the activity of His Spirit among us to proclaim the risen Jesus.

*Faith, not facilities.
Believers, not buildings.
Christians, not kitchens.*

Ok, that last one was pushing it. The point is this; what we have at Living Faith is special and it exists regardless of our facilities. Our facility project seeks to expand what we already have. To that end, the project itself is designed to expand the three areas around which all of our church is already organized: Worship, Discipleship and Service. Our planned project is detailed in the following pages.



Worship

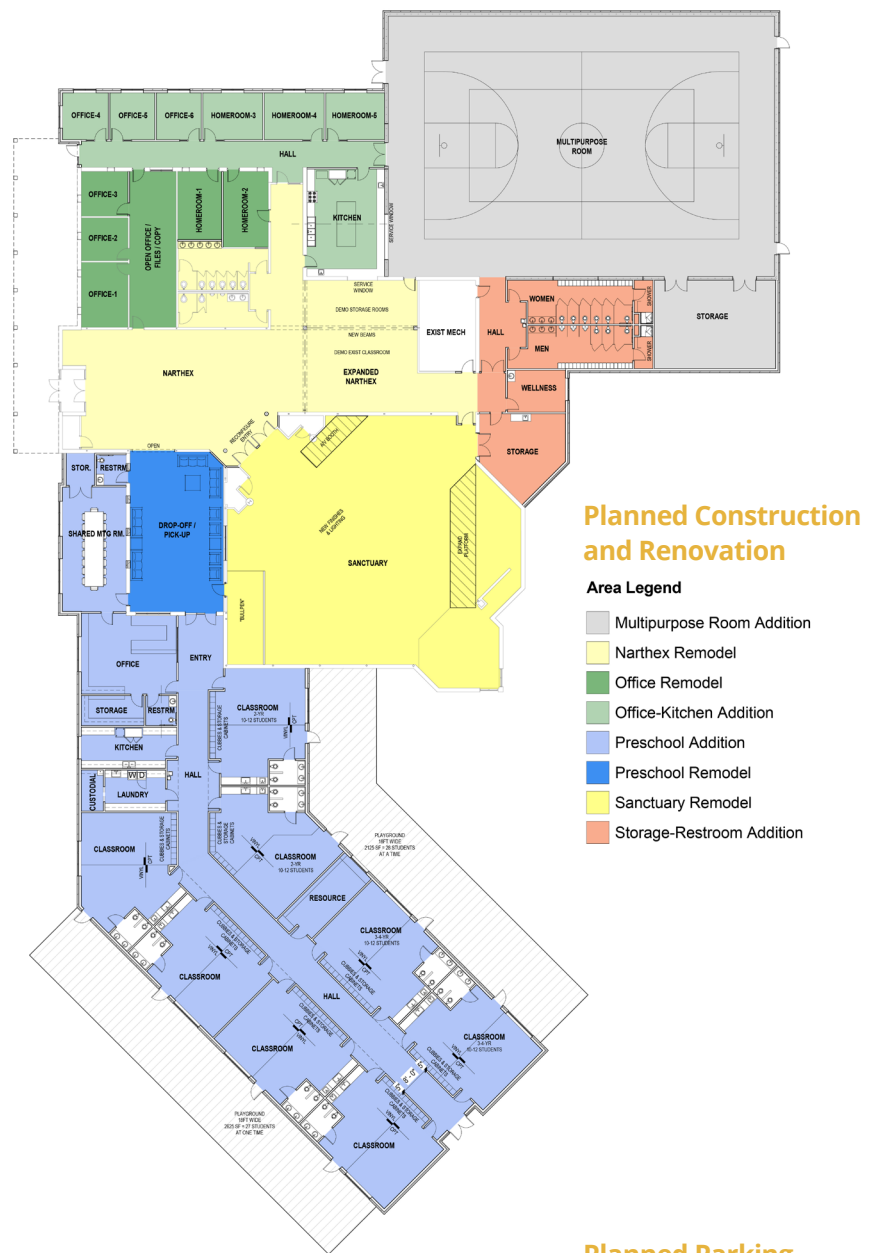
- Removal of temporary classrooms at the back of the sanctuary to allow our entire community to worship together and even accommodate more people in worship
- Addition of family friendly space in the back of the sanctuary for young children
- Expansion of Narthex area for times of fellowship
- Kitchen facilities and serving area for fellowship opportunities
- Rooms for relational style groups and Bible studies on Sunday morning
- Rooms for children's church on Sunday morning during worship

Discipleship

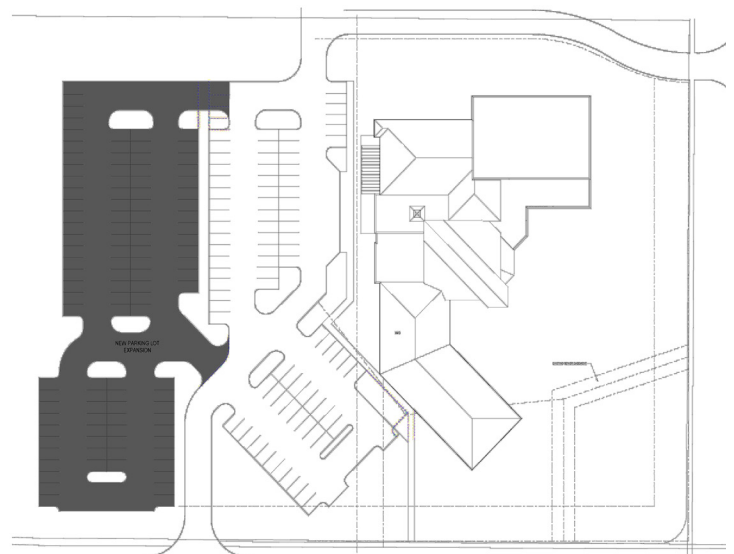
- Relationally designed rooms for small groups and Bible Studies of all ages throughout the week
- Space dedicated for youth ministry
- Space dedicated for training of our missionaries, service team and discipleship team
- Multi-purpose space for large group Bible studies
- Dedicated preschool wing to allow us to connect with twice as many children and families with Little Friends endeavor!

Service

- The large multi-purpose space will allow us to host community events, athletic practices, fellowship events, wedding and funeral receptions, large scale service projects, etc.
- The smaller, relationally designed rooms will be used to train leaders and stage service projects
- A partnership with Clive to allow use of our remaining green space in a creative way to serve the community



Planned Parking



Total Cost

The cost of the project in its entirety is estimated at 5.5 million. Yes, that is a lot! However, we do have options at our disposal to help manage that cost.

We will certainly engage in competitive bidding that our Build Team believes will result in a lower overall estimated cost.

We plan to work with Laborers for Christ (if you have not heard of them, it is worth a google search!) who boast an average of 20-30 percent overall savings on projects like ours. Depending on how God blesses us in our campaign, we will adopt one of several possible phasing options spreading that cost out over time.

Early data from our business planning for the preschool shows that revenue from the preschool will be able to pay for - and potentially exceed - the entirety of the mortgage related to their portion of construction and monthly cost of doing business.

LCEF has and will continue to be a trusted partner in responsible lending that will take into account preschool revenue, capital campaign results and congregational stewardship.

Timing

The timing of this project will absolutely depend on the generosity and faithfulness of the people of Living Faith. It could be a three year, five year or seven year project. It is my firm belief that God has given us the ability to accomplish all this in three years or less if we respond to His challenge in the same way our church has responded to every challenge over the last ten years. Will it take courage? Yes. Will it take trust in our Provider personally and as a congregation? Yes. Will it take discipline, dedication, faith in hard times, patience, endurance and commitment to persevere? Yes. No one is saying this will be easy. We are saying we believe it is worth it.

Timeline

- 3 year plan
- Fundraising begins in January 2020
- Earliest construction begins fall 2020
 - More likely 2021
 - Dependant on fundraising
- Construction will be phased
 - Preschool
 - Gym/multipurpose spaces
 - Sanctuary and Narthex remodel

Summary

We are blessed to have a truly special church that is so welcoming and, frankly, just feels like home. Over the past ten years, we have outgrown that home even as we know there are so many people in our community who feel cast out from church and spiritually homeless. It is really an exciting time at Living Faith as both the Council and the Elders as well as other leaders in our congregation are all in agreement: now is the time to be bold and to be faithful as God calls us to welcome the wanderers in faith and share with them the good news of our Father's House in eternity.

Now is the time to be generous so that we all are able to experience today a preview of our homecoming into eternity. Now is the time to create a sanctuary in which to reside where we can experience the love, grace and mercy we so eagerly await in the life that is to come.

Won't you join me in building our Home away from Home?





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