

Fall 2011

Dear Hope Des Moines Family,

Thank you for your interest in the ***Building Hope 4 The World Campaign through Lutheran Church of Hope!*** We are delighted to have you a part of our family here at Hope's Des Moines Campus! I strongly encourage you to take some time to read over and pray about the truth and promises of God in this packet, as well as the incredible challenge that has been given to us as God's people.

As you hear more about this campaign in the coming weeks, you may find yourself asking, "what does this mean for us at Hope Des Moines?" I'm glad you asked! Lutheran Church of Hope's mission has always been and continues to be to ***"Reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ!"*** We believe this is God's mission, not ours. In fact, when we read the gospels, we know that Jesus wasn't just a one-town guy, saying ***"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent" (Luke 4:43).***

As the church then begins to spread in the book of Acts, the most natural thing for the apostles to do was plant new congregations ***so everyone could hear that good news!*** For us today, we know that there are thousands of people who live in and around the Des Moines area who have no church home and/or have no relationship with Jesus Christ. It is for this very reason that Hope plants satellite congregations like the Des Moines campus in April of 2008.

Over the past three years, we've seen God on the move through the Des Moines campus, watching Him transform lives all around us. The poor have been clothed and fed, marriages have been restored, people freed from addiction, all ages experiencing authentic community through dozens of life groups, thousands blessed through local outreach efforts, and weekly worship expand to multiple services. For all of these our prayer is simply ***"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to Your Name be the glory!"*** (Ps. 115).

We know that it is God who brings growth not only in the width of our outreach, but in the depth of our love as disciples. God has done incredible things, but we believe ***He has much more in store for the Des Moines campus!***

As the staff and leaders of Hope Des Moines have prayed over the past few years, it has become clear that to carry out Hope's vision in the city even more effectively, a more permanent facility to support the mission is needed in the near future. Desiring to follow Jesus' model of ***incarnational ministry*** (John 1:14), we believe in order to truly reach those around you, having a consistent, tangible presence among them is extremely important. Thus, any vision for a future facility is built first and foremost on God's call for our lives rather than any human convenience. Moving towards a more permanent facility is not an effort to become a "real" church, or to simply make ministry easier. Although there will be many benefits to a permanent facility, ***we are the church right now***, being used by God to bring hope to the city! Scripture clearly tells us that ***the church is people living out God's mission***, rather than a building or worship service. Rather than a destination, any future facility will be a ***center for mission*** where we are loved, equipped, and ***sent back out to be the church*** during the week!

For the past three years, Hubbell Elementary School has provided a safe, friendly, and reliable place for our weekend worship. We have developed a wonderful relationship with the school and its staff, and hope to continue that friendship long into the future. However, having a more permanent, 7-day a week facility would allow us to carry out God's mission in many new and exciting ways that a rental facility simply does not allow.

Imagine with me:

- Weekly ***community meals*** for anyone in our community to be loved and fed
- A beautiful, Christ-centered urban facility to welcome the city to ***weekly worship***
- A 7-day a week food, clothing, and ***outreach center*** meeting the needs of the city
- Multi-purpose space for ***groups***, community ***events***, and ***artist creativity***
- A safe and welcoming place for anyone in the community to simply call ***"home"***
- And much, much more!

Can you see it? Thousands more lives transformed by the love of Christ. A place of hope, joy, and love available for anyone in the city. This is the vision God has given us “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). ***Will you join us?***

During this Fall’s Building Hope 4 the World campaign, Hope Des Moines will be taking a ***special offering on Sunday, November 20th towards the vision of this new facility in near future!*** The opportunity to give is available to all, regardless of your membership status at Hope. **Please take time to read the list of frequently asked questions** on the following page for more information. If you have more questions, please plan to attend our ***“fireside chat” concerning this effort on Sunday, November 13th at 10:15 a.m.*** in the Hubbell cafeteria. In the meantime, I would simply ask you to take the following steps:

- 1- **Pray:** Ask God this simple question: “Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish your will for Lutheran Church of Hope Des Moines?” If you are unable to give financially, will you join us in prayer for this mission?
- 2- **Listen to God:** Be still and keep asking. God will show you what He desires for you to give in His perfect time (Psalm 46:10).
- 3- **Take a leap of faith:** Trust God enough to do whatever He calls you to do, believing that He will provide (2 Cor. 9:6-11). Give as a matter of faith, joy, and freedom that comes with guilt-free giving!

It’s an honor and joy to be on this mission from God with you! I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us as a church family here in Des Moines! Thanks for being the church!

In Christ’s Love,

Jon Anenson

Hope Des Moines Director