

The Best is Yet to Come!



Messiah Lutheran Church

Dear Beloved

Dear Beloved Members of Messiah:



We here at Messiah Lutheran Church have much to celebrate. God has richly blessed us throughout our 52 year history. We have been in our new church campus for over five years now, and we have seen so many miracles that God has done in and through our church.

One of the great miracles is how quickly God has grown our church. In the past five years, God has blessed us with 839 new members. This presents many challenges and opportunities to us. One challenge that is facing us today is the building of our Sanctuary. We have all been looking forward to the day when we can worship God in a Sanctuary again. Well, the needs of our church and the possibilities for leading more people to Jesus have made it the right time for us to build this Sanctuary to the honor and glory of our great God.

In the next few weeks, each one of us will be asked to make a financial commitment to our new campaign, The Best is Yet to Come. This campaign will provide us the opportunity to do something truly great for our God. This campaign will make it possible for us to build our new Sanctuary. As each one of us does our part in making a commitment to God for this new Sanctuary, very soon this will become a reality.

There are pictures throughout this booklet that show what our new sanctuary is going to look like. As you look through these pictures, you will be able to get excited about what God is going to do right here in our church.

This is a truly exciting time in the history of Messiah Lutheran Church. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself. This is an opportunity to do something that will outlast you and leave a legacy for people of many generations to grow in their relationship with Jesus. This is an opportunity to lead many people to Jesus and to eternal life in heaven.

I ask that you prayerfully consider your part in this new campaign. May the Lord richly bless you, as you consider being part of something truly exciting for your great God!

Your Friend in Christ,

—

Rev. Dr. Victor J. Kollmann
Senior Pastor



OUR HISTORY

Messiah began its ministry in 1956. At the beginning members worshipped at the Restland Memorial Wildwood Chapel.

The first Church was built in Richardson, Texas on West Belt Line in 1957. The congregation continued to grow and they built a second Sanctuary in 1965, using the first Sanctuary for the Lambs' Early Childhood Center and Sunday Bible Classes. In 1975, the Church built a third Sanctuary, using the second as a Gym and Fellowship Hall.

In December 2003, we moved to our current Church campus here in Plano.

Messiah has had three pastors before Pastor Kollmann came to lead us. They were: Pastor Herbener, who began the mission; Pastor Meyer, who was pastor for almost 30 years; and Pastor Harding, who was an associate pastor under Pastor Meyer, becoming Senior Pastor after his retirement.

Our church continues to grow to over 2000 members. We are a congregation that is full of many loving family members.



OUR FUTURE

God has given us a great beginning to His master plan for our church! But, we have many more exciting things to build.

In this campaign:

- 1 We want to build a **Sanctuary** which can seat 1000 people, where we are able to worship and praise our great God in beautiful surroundings, as well as grow together in the Word. We want to have a **Pipe Organ** to beautify our worship to God, similar to how it was in our previous sanctuary. We want to have a **Bell Tower** from which to play beautiful music to our Lord.
- 2 We want to turn our current worship center into a **Gymnasium** to meet the physical needs of our members and friends, and help people to be able to live healthier lives to the glory of God.

In the future:

- 3 We also want to build a **Fellowship Hall** in the future to build relationships among our members and friends through meals and special events. We want to build a **Kitchen** and a platform area for special **Drama** and **Musical** productions.
- 4 Also in the future, we want to build a **Youth Area** for our expanding youth ministry. We want to build a large room for **Youth Worship** celebrations and fellowship activities. We want to create a place where youth can grow in their relationship with Jesus.



MESSIAH'S MISSION AND VISION

Messiah is a Christian family growing in faith and love. Christ is making a difference in the lives of others through us. We help people to:

Discover Messiah, new friends, our faith and our gifts
Mature in Christ
Joyfully apply our Spiritual gifts

Messiah's Mission has three stages of action:

Bring	Equip	Serve
DISCOVER	DEVELOP	DEPLOY

Compelled by God's grace and a desire to be disciples in Jesus Christ, we:

Bring people into God's family
Equip them for life-changing discipleship
Serve as passionately as Christ serves us.

5 Purposes

- 1 Outreach—Go and make disciples (Matt 28:19)
- 2 Worship—Love Me with all your heart, soul and mind (Luke 10:27)
- 3 Fellowship—Love others as yourselves (Luke 10:27)
- 4 Discipleship—Hold to My teaching (John 8:31)
- 5 Ministry—Bear much fruit (John 15:8)

6 Marks of a Disciple

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Weekly Worship
- 3 Bible Reading
- 4 Service
- 5 Spiritual Friendships
- 6 Giving



WHAT IS OUR SPECIFIC NEED?

“My God will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory through Jesus Christ.” Philippians 4:19

What blessings God has already given to Messiah Lutheran Church over the past five years! We have a worship center that seats over 500 people. We have a beautiful chapel for our weddings and funerals. We have a two-story education and administration building, which houses our Early Childhood Ministry, and gives us many rooms for our Adult Bible Classes and Sunday School Classes.

Now is the right time to build a Sanctuary to the glory of God! Now is the right time to build a place where people will feel the presence of God in a mighty way and be led into a closer relationship with their God. Now is the right time to build a sanctuary, which will attract many more people to visit Messiah, where they will hear the Good News of Jesus, and the seeds of faith will be planted in them by the Holy Spirit.

The Best is Yet to Come Campaign is intended to build this Sanctuary. The money collected in this campaign will be used to build a new sanctuary.



WHAT IS OUR HOPE?

“God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”

Ephesians 3:20

First, we want to make sure that everyone has complete and accurate information. Part of this process is to make sure that you are informed about where we are going and what our needs are.

Second, we want to encourage every member of Messiah to ask the question, “What does God want ME to do?” Ultimately, the decision about giving is between you and the Lord. No one can ask this question but you. No one can answer this question but the Lord Himself.

Third, we want God to provide the money necessary for our needs. We have already spent \$8,000,000 for our first two buildings. During this time, we have paid every one of our bills. The remainder of our Master Plan is going to cost around \$8,000,000 as well. Our plan is to raise \$3,000,000 and to have a loan of around \$13,000,000 to finish our Master Plan. We are going to take the first part of this money and build a Sanctuary, starting in 2011. Our dream is to then build out the remainder of the Master Plan in 2014. As God continues to grow His Church, and as we all continue to make sacrifices to our God, God can make this happen.

GOD CAN DO A MIRACLE THROUGH US!

Fourth, we have already seen what God can do when we put our resources in His hands. We have seen people grow closer to God. We have seen people come to faith in Jesus. We have seen people giving of their time and talents to the Lord. We have seen the difference this Church Campus has already made in our communities. Our hope is that these blessings will continue to multiply through building the rest of our Church Campus. Apart from the money raised to finish building our Church Campus, these our wonderful benefits to our congregation.

WE NEED 100 % PARTICIPATION! WE NEED YOU!

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

The theme for our Building Campaign is ***The Best is Yet to Come***. God has blessed us with so much in our personal lives and in the life of our church. God promises us that He has a great future planned for us in heaven through what His Son, Jesus, did for us years ago. Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead to forgive our sins and to overcome death for us and to give us eternal life with Him in heaven. In the meantime, we know that God is going to continue to do great things through us here on this earth, and we know that God is also going to do a great thing when He takes us to live with Him forever in heaven. Therefore, certainly, **The Best is Yet to Come**.

First, Pray! Ask Jesus to communicate with you personally what He wants you to do. We are a supernatural church, aren't we? We want to see what God wants and what God can do, rather than to see what we can do without God.

Second, Be ready to help in the process! You may be asked to take on a small task to help spread the word about our Campaign, **The Best is Yet to Come**. Be ready to say “Yes” when you are asked to help.

Third, Be informed! Over the next few weeks, you are going to be exposed to a lot of information about our Campaign, **The Best is Yet to Come**. and about our building plans, and about the vision and the mission of Messiah. Read all the information! Attend the informational meeting and worship celebrations!

Fourth, Give! “Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices!” This is the heart of our Campaign, **The Best is Yet to Come**. Each person gives according to his or her resources. Some will give more than others, but everyone gives something.

Fifth, Approach The Best is Yet to Come Campaign with two thoughts in mind:

1 It is not about buildings. It is about ministry! It is about serving God.

2 It is not about buildings. It is about discipleship! Learning about what God says about money is part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

TWO MAJOR EVENTS

May 10: Begin collecting commitments for *The Best is Yet to Come* Campaign.

June 7: Celebration Sunday & Picnic for all the commitments to our Lord.

WHY SHOULD I MAKE A COMMITMENT?

The Best is Yet to Come Building Campaign is extremely important to our ministry and to the future of our church. That is why we need every one of you to participate in it. Would you pray about your sacrifice to God in this campaign and then write that commitment on the enclosed commitment card?

Please bring this commitment card with you to church on our Kick-Off Sunday on May 10. On this Sunday, we will bring all of our commitments up to the Lord's altar and dedicate them to Him. If you are unable to be with us May 10, you can bring your commitment card the next Sunday, or you can mail it to the church, or drop it off at the church office. We will be collecting all of the commitments from our members throughout May.

Join all of the members of your church family and make a generous commitment to your great God. Who knows what miracles God is going to do through your commitment? Thank you in advance for your support!

The commitment card is a concrete way to define your response to God's call. Nobody has to make a pledge – but we want to make sure that everyone who wishes to participate in The Best is Yet to Come can. This card is not a contract, but a statement of intent. The pledges given can help church leaders plan wisely for future expenditures. We invite you to join us on Commitment Sunday, May 10, to bring your initial gift and your 4-year pledge.

Is my commitment confidential? Absolutely. All pledges to The Best is Yet to Come Campaign are strictly confidential.

If necessary, may I change my commitment? Of course. Should changing circumstances force you to alter your giving plan, just call the church office and let us know about your desire to change your amount.

The Best is Yet to Come!
Commitment Card

Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God, and knowing that God delights in multiplying the gifts of His children, I/we rejoice in the calling to participate in "The Best is Yet To Come Campaign" with the following four-year commitment:

\$ _____ Weekly x 208 weeks or \$ _____ Monthly x 48 months or

\$ _____ As follows: _____

To be completed by persons making commitments other than cash.
Approximate value of gift. Method of determining value: _____

Description of gift: _____ (stocks, real estate, etc.)

\$ _____ FOUR-YEAR TOTAL

I plan to put Messiah in my will \$ _____ or _____ %.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

I/we will begin my/our gift on _____ Signature _____

(please print)

& This commitment is a statement of intent and may be altered as circumstances change. &

TENTATIVE GIFT PROFILE CHART NOT EQUAL GIFTS BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE

No. Gifts at Level	Gift Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total	Percentage
1	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	10 Commitments = \$1,025,000 or 34.17% of Goal
2	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$600,000	
3	\$75,000	\$225,000	\$825,000	
4	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$1,025,000	
5	\$36,000	\$180,000	\$1,205,000	51 Commitments = \$999,000 or 33.30% of Goal
7	\$30,000	\$210,000	\$1,415,000	
9	\$24,000	\$216,000	\$1,631,000	61 Commitments = \$2,024,000 or 67.47% of Goal
11	\$15,000	\$165,000	\$1,796,000	
19	\$12,000	\$228,000	\$2,024,000	
21	\$9,000	\$189,000	\$2,213,000	Remaining Commitments = \$976,600 or 32.53% of Goal
25	\$7,500	\$187,500	\$2,400,500	
45	\$4,500	\$202,500	\$2,603,000	
75	\$2,400	\$180,000	\$2,783,000	
135	\$1,200	\$162,000	\$2,945,000	
Remainder	\$900 or less	\$ 55,000	\$3,000,000	
Total Commitments=\$3,000,000 or 100% of Goal				

The Gift Profile Chart is a tool to help you understand the various sizes of gifts required to raise \$3,000,000 over a four-year period. Please prayerfully consider what type of four-year commitment you and your family might make toward the Building Campaign. Understandably, the gift amount you choose may not be on this gift profile chart.

Please read the "12 Creative Ways to Give to a Campaign" on the next page to understand additional ways to enhance your giving. You will never be told what you should give. Your financial involvement is a decision between you and your Lord.

Remember: A sacrifice to God means giving up something you love for something you love even more.

12 CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE TO THE CAMPAIGN

Many people hear a phrase like “Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice” and say, “If they only knew how little money I have,” or “I’m giving all I can, I can’t give any more,” or “I’m single, going to school, I’m in debt up to my ears, I can’t give much,” or “I’m a single parent and I can barely feed my kids, there’s no way I can give to the campaign.” We understand these concerns and empathize with you. Here is a list of creative ways to give that you may have overlooked. Each one requires sacrifice on your part, but like King David said, “I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!” You may want to combine one or more of these to represent your commitment, or come up with some of your own!

- 1 Be a coupon clipper! Food is probably the largest discretionary expense each month. Taking the time and discipline to do this can save \$10-\$20 per week. Ten dollars a week for four years is \$2,080!
- 2 Skip a meal a week. Skipping a meal a week at an average of \$20 per family to devote to prayer or fasting is \$4,160.
- 3 Give up a habit. Easier said than done, but not impossible. For example, an almond latte plus tax each day for four years costs nearly \$3,200!
- 4 Commit your income tax refund check to the Lord for the four-year period.
- 5 Commit an estimated raise in salary to the Lord for the next four years.
- 6 Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to this campaign.
- 7 Make a commitment to drink only water at a restaurant. One person could save \$5 a week or more. That’s a minimum of \$1,040 over four years.
- 8 Adjust your vacations. For one or more years, do something close and inexpensive like day hikes, picnics, or a three-day vacation instead of a week and save on airfare and hotel costs. This can save \$1,000 to \$3,000 easily.
- 9 Wait for a movie to come out on video instead of seeing it at the theater. One trip to the movie theater can cost over \$30 with snacks for two people!
- 10 Cut down to basic cable instead of regular cable. Cutting out Showtime, HBO, or other premium channels can save even more.
- 11 Continue a bill payment. If you’ll be paying off a car or school loan in the next year, commit to continue to “pay the bill” by redirecting the money to the campaign after the bill is paid off. A \$100 payment per month over four years is \$4,800.
- 12 A dollar increase per week. This is a great idea for those who have never given or do not see a way to increase current giving. Start by giving one dollar the first week, then two, then three, etc., praying all along that the Lord would show you a way to add that next dollar and increase each week. If you were to keep this up for four years, you would give \$20,000!

GIVE *Creatively*



You are awesome, O God, in Your Sanctuary;
the God of Israel gives power and strength
to His people. Praise be to God!

Psalm 68:35



The Best is Yet to Come!

