

## NEWSLETTER

**BUILDING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, PLANT CITY, FL

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

**HOME GATHERINGS**

Our Home Gatherings are well underway—we completed 3 in the month of September, and now it's full-steam ahead for 9 more before the end of October! Gathering together in members' homes has truly been informative and inspirational! It has been encouraging to hear stories of Hope's legacy of ministry in this community down through the years, along with the vision of building Hope for the future. We all have an important role to play, for it is the **body** of Christ, **His Church**, (not a building) that ministers to one another and to our Plant City community. This is a growth experience for all of us, as we seek first the kingdom of God in our hearts and lives, so that we can truly share all that God has done for us by giving back to Him and our community. To God be the glory!

Each Home Gathering starts with a brief time of food and fellowship, thanks to our gracious hosts/hostesses. One of our Pastors leads us in a devotional, and one of our Campaign Directors provides an update on our "Building Hope for the Future" project and capital campaign. There is ample time for discussion and questions. We encourage you to jot down any questions you might have, as this is the perfect opportunity for you to provide your input, and get feedback from others. You should have received a personal invitation to a Home Gathering near your home, and if that date/time doesn't work for you, please

contact one of us for a more suitable alternative.

We love that our Church congregation's name is HOPE Lutheran Church. Just what is the definition of hope? First, it is having a goal that inspires us (and we have the Hope of Christ within us—how inspiring is that??) and makes us believe the future will be better than our current reality. Secondly, it is believing by faith that with God's help we can achieve that inspiring goal. And, thirdly, hope provides the willingness to explore multiple pathways to get there (going over, under, and around the inevitable obstacles Satan puts in our paths as followers of Christ).

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13**

Sharing His love, and ours,  
*Cindy Kemp & Sandy Booher,*  
Visitation Directors



# FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Saints of Hope:

*"INSPIRE"...what does this mean? One definition is "fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative."*

During the month of October we have been and will continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit through God's Word. He's enabled us to begin to see the incredible future He has in store for us. As our theme verse for **Building Hope for the Future** reminds us (Jeremiah 29:11), ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** God is granting us the opportunity to pass the torch of the Reformation to the generations behind us, to give to our children and grandchildren a mission hub where they, like we, can take the Gospel from this place into our community, indeed into all the world. God is granting us the opportunity to **Build Hope for the Future**, where our worship, our daily life with Him, and our engagement locally, fills Plant City and our surrounding communities with His presence through us.

However, this future isn't primarily about "things." Getting "things" shouldn't be the motivation for what we do as we follow Him in faith. Our **Building Hope for the Future** campaign first and foremost is about ministry expansion, how we as God's children at this place and time can live our lives in faithful service to our generous God. It is about us learning to trust more and more each day that God will provide for our needs as we joyfully participate with Him in achieving His vision, His hope for the future of His creation, using the gifts that He alone entrusts to us.

As we move forward to our Commitment Sunday (November 3<sup>rd</sup>), May our hearts and minds be opened by the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us as never before as we respond to His love through His Son, our risen and living Lord and Savior. May we gladly respond to His love for us by thankfully making sacrificial gifts from the abundant provisions God has entrusted to us in order that we may joyfully participate in His vision for His creation.

As together we share the vision of **Building Hope for the Future**, we also keep in mind that we are a family gathered around Word and Sacrament to influence our community, we trust God will continue to guide and provide for us and our future facilities to be tools in His hands, to continue Connecting Plant City and our Communities to Jesus until He returns!

I look forward to seeing you in worship and Bible Study each week, as we gather around the gifts God has given us as we eternally influence our community for Christ through the hope and future God alone has gifted us!

Together in Mission & Ministry,  
Rev. Dean Pfeffer, Sr. Pastor

# FROM OUR CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Capital Campaign continues to move forward. We are now partway through our small group home gatherings and many have felt the Lord working among us during these sessions. For those congregation members still waiting for their scheduled event, please come prepared to ask any questions that you might have considered that have not yet been answered during these past few weeks. If you have already attended a small group gathering, but still have questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Jim Drapp, or any of the Capital Campaign Committee Leadership Team. If your scheduled small group has already met and you were not able to attend or if you will not be able to attend a future session to which you have been invited, we ask you to contact our Visitation Directors, Cindy Kemp and Sandy Booher, and they can find a session for you to attend. We urge you to do everything that you can to find a session to attend so that you might hear the ways that God has blessed Hope Lutheran and its members.

Upcoming dates to look forward to include November 3, 2019 which is Commitment Sunday. It is on this day that you can express your gratitude to our Lord for all that he has done for you and for all the blessings that you have received. We ask you to look into your hearts and prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to our "Building Hope for the Future Campaign". Remember that this gift is over and above your regular tithe. It is the family of believers that make up Hope and a new building is just a tool, however, this tool is critical to the future of Hope Lutheran and its ministry as we continue to use it to connect people to Jesus. We have heard reference to a new Sanctuary as a mission hub and we can't think of a more apt description as we use our mission hub to continue to spread God's word in so many wonderful ways.

Another date to look forward to is November 17<sup>th</sup>. It is during this Impact Weekend that we will share with the Congregation the commitments that God has led us to make in support of his kingdom. It is also at this time that the Building Committee will provide a final proposed cost of a new sanctuary. As we finalize our building plans, please let us know of any final thoughts you might have regarding our new sanctuary. While we may not be able to incorporate everyone's ideas, we will certainly give all your suggestions prayerful and thoughtful consideration.

Finally, we pray God will provide "immeasurably more" than we can think or imagine during this campaign and ministry expansion.

*Jim Drapp & Nick Trivunovich,*  
Campaign Directors

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE

### Inform Sunday

AUGUST 18, 2019

### Inspire Sunday

OCTOBER 6, 2019

### Initial Commitments Event

OCTOBER 15, 2019

### Commitment Sunday

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

### Campaign Celebration Dinner

November 3, 2019

### Impact Weekend

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

### Construction

JANUARY 2020

### Dedication

January 2021

