



HOPE GROWS HERE



"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go, and bear fruit - fruit that will last - so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

John 15:16



OUR TEAM

Pastor Ed Kropa
Bill Unger
Cheryl Hurd
Josh Staudinger-Renik
Sarah Volk Kozak
Sue Hu

Discipleship & Faith Formation
Spokesperson
Events
Marketing & Communications
Project Manager
Finance

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



HOPE GROWS HERE!

As our vision statement reminds us, we are...

Anchored in Christ, Growing in Faith, Love, and Service

That's who we are and what we have been called to be for the past 58 years and counting. A community anchored in Christ and striving always to grow. Not merely, or even primarily, in numbers. But especially in faith, love, and service. And that decades-long commitment to growing in these important ways is what brings us to this moment and the challenge before us today.

Hope Grows Here will be an intentional, congregation-wide effort to promote and grow our ministry in significant ways. Hope Grows Here also reflects our core identity and history. And Hope Grows Here will continue to build on that legacy as we move ahead into the future.

In John 15:16, Jesus said to his disciples: "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..."

Similarly, in Matthew 7: 17 and 20, Jesus noted: "...every good tree bears good fruit... Thus you will know them by their fruits."

Here at Hope Lutheran Church, we have been chosen and called by God to bear fruit that will last. And just as it's been for the past 58 years, the challenge and the opportunity is once again before us. May we be faithful to that calling and continue to bear good fruit in his name!

Pastor Ed

HOPE'S UNFOLDING STORY

Hope Lutheran Church in Freehold Township, NJ, was founded in the mid-1960s. It started with land acquisition and the involvement of several clergy members, and it held its first service in 1966. Over the decades, the church expanded its facilities, introduced programs like Hope Christian School and Open Door, and underwent leadership changes. Celebrations like its 50th Anniversary marked milestones, and the church continues to thrive with a focus on community, education, and faith.



1965: Rev. Eugene Beutel observed growth in Freehold Township, proposed establishing a new congregation, and purchased the land where Hope began.

1967: Membership officially began, and Hope Christian School was established in October.

1983-1986: Construction of a new worship building and multipurpose room began. Fellowship Hall and the refurbished Worship Center were dedicated in 1986.

2017: The church celebrated its 50th Anniversary, and Rev. Dr. Edward E. Kropp, Jr. was installed as the new pastor.

1966: Rev. Albert W. Gibson was called to lead, and the first service was held in September. The building was dedicated in November.

1975: An educational wing with eight classrooms was added.

1997-1998: Longtime Pastor Al Gibson retired, and Rev. Dr. Patricia Medley was installed.

2019: Josh Staudinger joins Hope as the Minister of Music, and the Hope Praise Band is formed with a new contemporary service added to Sunday worship

ABOUT HOPE GROWS HERE

OUR VISION

HOPE Grows Here is a spiritual initiative focused on growth and transformation. It is a season where we are being called as a church to deepen our faith, expand our reach, and share God's love more boldly. God has done amazing things through Hope Lutheran Church for nearly 60 years, and now He is presenting us with quite possibly one of the most life-defining moments we have ever been presented with as a church. We believe God has a vision for Hope as an impact church, a church that transforms the landscape of our community, of our region, of our mission partnerships in Freehold and globally, and ultimately, the world.



HOPE GROWS HERE: A UNIFIED VISION



Hope Grows Here represents a renewed focus on faith, community impact, and service. By combining annual ministry needs with plans for future growth into a unified vision, our OneFund Approach simplifies giving and ensures alignment with our mission. With a two-year goal of \$630,000, this effort supports both daily ministry needs (\$430,000) and proposed ministry and building expansions (\$200,000).

Together, we can rise to the challenge, bearing fruit for the future and ensuring that Hope Grows Here. Join us in this journey of faith and commitment, as we continue to grow in Christ's love and service to others.

PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT

HOPE GROWS HERE: OUR GOALS



GROWING ENGAGEMENT

- Increase participation in worship, service, ministries, committees, activities and service
- Empower members to make a positive impact with their times and talents



GROWING COMMUNITY

- Rebuild and expand the bonds of fellowship and belonging
- Foster deeper relationships and active involvement in the community



GROWING GENEROSITY

- Increase our faith-focused annual offerings to better align with spending spend and ministry needs
- Invest in our future and outreach by funding ministry and building expansion project



GROWING IMPACT

- Expand our ability to support our local and global ministries
- Better accommodate community groups by creating additional ministry spaces



GROWING MINDS

- Invest in the future of our youth through Hope Sunday School, Youth Group, and Hope Christian School, and other program offerings
- Grow continued excellence in education and outreach.

HOW TO KNOW WHAT TO GIVE: 5 P'S

1 | PRAYER

The first P is **PRAYER** ... prayer starts it all. How can I know God's will for my life in the midst of this campaign without talking to Him?

Luke 22:41-42: "Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'"

2 | PERSONAL

The second P is **PERSONAL** ... it's about how I can glorify God with my decision, not about the actions of my friends or neighbors.

John 21:20-22: "Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!'"

3 | PROPORTIONAL

The third P is **PROPORTIONAL** ... it's not about quantity – it is about my faith and gift quality. It is not about how much. It is about how much it costs me.

Mark 12:43-44: Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'"

4 | PLEASING

The fourth P is **PLEASING** ... it's about seeking a commitment decision that would be pleasing to God. For most of us, it is easy to find what is pleasing to us. It is tougher to find what is pleasing to God. It causes us to struggle and stretch under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

5 | PEACE

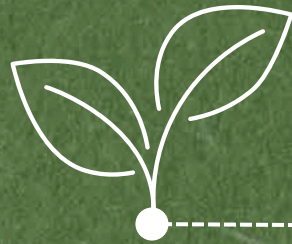
The fifth and final P is **PEACE** ... it's about receiving peace through the knowledge that we have made a prayerful, personal, proportional commitment that is pleasing to God.

Philippians 4:7: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

HOPE GROWS HERE JOURNEY

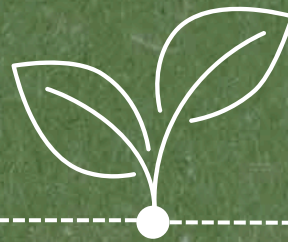
The Hope Grows Here Journey focuses on the behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages

HOPE GROWS HERE journey is a tool designed to help a person move from money being their God to money being a tool for God's Kingdom.



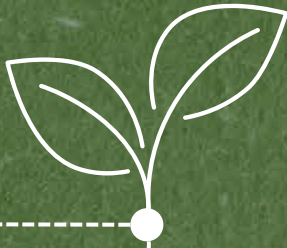
FIRST-TIME GIVER

This type of giver is someone who decides to give for the first time. This is someone who chooses to give something and trust God and the church leaders with this gift.



CONSISTENT GIVER

This type of giver is someone who decides to give on a consistent basis. This often requires planning, and sometimes this might be a reason for someone to set up a recurring gift online, or to become disciplined with giving through regular checks



INTENTIONAL GIVER

This type of giver begins asking questions like, “Why am I giving more to my cell phone bill than I am giving to God? Should I be giving God more than I give for my mortgage each month?” This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they feel about it in relation to other things they spend money on.



SACRIFICIAL GIVER

This type of giver begins to ask the question, “Am I giving in a way that changes me? Am I giving in a way that causes my lifestyle to be different to reflect the transformation that Jesus is making in me?” A Sacrificial Giver’s commitment to giving actually governs their lifestyle. A Sacrificial has a giving commitment that is “larger than their current situation” so that they have to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet that commitment

A Legacy Giver no longer asks, “God, how much are you asking me to keep?” Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern their monthly and annual decisions, a Legacy Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term commitment that governs his/her larger decisions like homes, cars, investments, and the like.



LEGACY GIVER

At Hope Lutheran Church, we believe in planting seeds of faith, love, and service to nurture a vibrant future for our community. Your commitment supports the growth of our ministries, the care of our church home, and the outreach that makes a lasting difference.

Together, we can ensure that **hope grows here** through current and expanded ministries. Thank you for your partnership in this pursuit of 100% engagement!

MY POTENTIAL GIVING GUIDE

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	YEARLY	2-YEAR TOTAL
\$ 606	\$ 2,625	\$ 31,500	\$ 63,000
\$ 481	\$ 2,083	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
\$ 288	\$ 1,250	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
\$ 240	\$ 1,042	\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000
\$ 192	\$ 833	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
\$ 144	\$ 625	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
\$ 96	\$ 417	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
\$ 72	\$ 313	\$ 3,750	\$ 7,500
\$ 48	\$ 208	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
\$ 24	\$ 104	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,500
\$ 10	\$ 42	\$ 500	\$ 1,000

This is just a guide for reference purposes. We ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment.

I/We are fully supportive of the mission and vision of Hope Lutheran Church of Freehold and want to make the following commitment.

	\$	What I/we normally give to Hope in a year
+	\$	My/Our expanded annual giving
=	\$	My/Our new annual giving amount

X 2
YEARS



\$

Gifts from stored assets
or one-time gift

\$

+

MY/OUR
COMMITMENT

=

Name

Email

Phone

Address

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SO HERE'S WHAT WE'RE ASKING OF YOU

ONE MISSION. ONE FUND.

You may have participated in church campaigns during which you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible. Typically, you gave that gift to the “Building Fund” and continued offering offerings to the “General Fund.” This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or aren’t able to celebrate the total giving they are engaging in at the Church in one single number.

We believe that it is all ONE MISSION that we’re on – the mission to reach more people with the love of Jesus. We have decided from now on it will be one fund to which we give our generosity at the Church. The generosity initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every gift given to the Church will support our operating budget and ministries.

Determine how God might call you to grow in your generosity and be a part of our expanded investment in God’s Kingdom through **Hope Grows Here.**



Join us for **WORSHIP** services over the next few weeks



Join us in a **SMALL GROUP** experience like bible study



Join us in **PRAYER** as a church

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE A STEP?

S

SACRIFICE. Would you prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to give up during the next two years so that you can give more to His Kingdom through the work of Hope Lutheran?

T

TRUST GOD. Will you join us by trusting God in a way we have never done before? We need every Hope Lutheran Church member to unite in faith that God will work out all the details.

E

EVERYONE. We can’t do this alone. We can’t do this with half of our body. We need everyone in our church to join together in unity as we stand up, take a step and live a life where we’re planting seeds of hope for the future.

P

PRAY. This journey is so much more spiritual than financial. Please pray for His wisdom, His courage and direction every step of the way.

YOU MAY BE ASKING...

Why do we need the Hope Grows Here initiative?

Our congregation and ministries have grown significantly, and our current facilities are insufficient to meet our community's needs. This initiative will provide the resources necessary to support and expand our ministries and space, ensuring we can continue to grow in faith, love, and service. Our goal is 100% participation!

What is the OneFund?

The OneFund approach simplifies giving by merging annual ministry needs and future growth funding into a single two-year goal. This unified strategy ensures that all contributions directly support both current operations and future growth, making giving easier and more straightforward for members.

What kind of building expansions are planned?

The proposed expansion will address the need for additional meeting rooms, ministry and fellowship spaces, and updates to accommodate our growing congregation. These improvements will enhance our ability to worship, educate, and serve our community effectively and creatively.

How does this affect my regular giving?

Hope Grows Here encourages members to consider their giving holistically. Instead of separate campaigns for ministries and expansion, all contributions go toward a unified goal. Members are invited to prayerfully consider their ability to support both current needs and future growth through a single commitment.

How long will the Hope Grows Here initiative last?

The initiative spans two years, during which we hope to exceed our \$630,000 goal. This timeline allows us to support ongoing ministries while planning and implementing expanded opportunities.

How can I participate?

Please prayerfully consider supporting this initiative in any capacity you feel comfortable with. Our goal is 100% participation! In addition to financial support, we encourage members to volunteer their time and talents. From planning events to assisting with outreach, there are many ways to contribute to Hope Grows Here's success. Most importantly, pray for our initiative and the ministries of our church!

Will there be updates on the initiative's progress?

Yes. Regular updates will be shared during worship services, in newsletters, and on the church's website. Transparency is a priority, and the congregation will remain informed every step of the way.

What happens if we exceed our goal?

Praise God! Any funds raised beyond the goal will be reinvested into furthering the church's mission, such as additional facility improvements, enhanced programs, or expanded community outreach efforts.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Please don't hesitate to contact any member of our team! The Hope Grows Here team is here to assist you: Pastor Ed, Bill Unger, Sarah Kozak, Cheryl Hurd, Josh Staudinger, and Sue Hu are all here for you!

