



# Open the Doors of Peace

[www.peacelutheranhastings.org/capital-campaign.html](http://www.peacelutheranhastings.org/capital-campaign.html)

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## STEP BY STEP FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS:

### Now

- Continue “90 Days of Prayers”
- Continue reading materials; finalize your Spiritual Renewal Pledge Sheet; and begin your chosen ‘exercises’.

### May 4 Celebration Sunday

- Attend Sunday service and learn the total amount pledged to that point as we rejoice with one another in all the blessings God continues to shower upon us (especially forgiveness, life and salvation) all for the sake of His Son.

### May 18 (Tentative)

- Attend the **Special Voters' Meeting**.
- The Building Committee will present their recommendation based upon the congregation's input and their months of research.
- The congregation will then decide how to proceed.

## There's a celebration coming! Join us May 4!

Our Pledge Events certainly were fun, upbeat experiences for all those who participated. We were able to mix and mingle, we were treated to delicious food, we were entertained, we were fed with the Word of God by two faithful guest pastors, and we did all of this in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ.



We hope you were able to take part in most of the “Open the Doors of Peace” campaign events. If you did, then you have received the full benefit of learning all about why we started this capital campaign and what we hope to do with the funds that are pledged and given.



Take a look at the Case Statement once again (see page 4). It summarizes why we are doing this capital campaign.

We are in the final stretch now. If you

have not yet decided how to respond to this campaign, please spend some time in thoughtful prayer in the next few weeks. If you have already made a spiritual pledge last month and a financial pledge this month, we thank you!

Our next event, **Celebration Sunday**, will take place on **May 4**. Please join us as we celebrate God's amazing blessings on our “Open the Doors of Peace” campaign. By then, we will have a total of all of the pledges that have been made so far (For a running total see the poster in the back of the sanctuary, or see page 3).



**Consider this your invitation to come to church on May 4 for the Celebration of our blessings.** We have included an envelope with this newsletter for your first offering to the campaign. Whether you have pledged or not, you are invited to use this envelope to give an initial celebration offering.

Don't miss this last celebration of our “Open the Doors of Peace” campaign.



## Home Gatherings Provide Time of Fellowship and Sharing

We hope you were able to participate in one of our campaign Home Gatherings. It was a great time to chat with fellow members and focus on the purpose of the campaign. We reviewed the brochure together, did a Bible study, and watched our own Peace video.

The video was a great walk down memory lane and gave us all a good reminder of how God has blessed our church over the



years. If you did not get a chance to see the entire video, contact the office to get a copy to view at home.

Special thanks to Gwen Ruppert for heading up this team and to our Home Gathering Hosts: Bev Saathoff, Barbie Hoins, Jan Hinze, Dianne Botsch, Marge Ockinga, Jackie Russell, Melissa Hart, Nadeen Debban, Joan Primrose, Brenda Christensen, Marian Kerr, Kay Krueger, Carol Hansel, Gwen Ruppert, and Garnet Aukerman.

## A Pledge Event Banquet to Remember



The April 6th Pledge Event was a wonderful time to get together as a congregation. While not everyone was able to be there, the afternoon was well attended. After the Sunday morning Divine Service and a joint Bible study, members of Peace drove or walked (It was a beautiful afternoon.) to the Hazelrigg Student Union for a luncheon prepared by the staff of Hastings College. The room was elegantly decorated and the meal accompanied by music played by Dr. Phil Hesterman. There were words offered up by members of the campaign which were capped off by the Word of God proclaimed by the guest speaker, Pastor Clint Poppe of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lincoln. The comforting message of our freedom in Christ predominated as fellowship in His name was enjoyed.

## Spiritual Phase, Stewardship Phase...What's Next?

What a wonderful Pledge Event we had on April 6! This capped off the Stewardship Phase of a capital campaign that actually began in February when our leaders began planning and recruiting.

Remember our human case statement back in February? That is when we learned our “Open the Doors of Peace” campaign slogan.



We announced back then that this campaign would have two main components: a Spiritual Phase and a Stewardship Phase.



Our members responded with financial pledges at the Pledge Event, and will give offerings to fulfill these pledges in the three years ahead.

More importantly, though, is that the members of

the Peace family made spiritual pledges in March that will be “fulfilled” and make a difference for years ahead and into eternity.

Our next step is to begin our Follow-Up Program. Vicki Haller and Barbie Hoins are heading up this effort.

The Follow-Up will consist of periodic updates to the congregation about our overall progress on our pledges and also updates to our individual members on their own progress. We hope to have some celebration events as we reach major goals.



Follow-Up will also involve reaching out to all new members with a “mini campaign” to make sure they know about our efforts to “Open the Doors of Peace.”

## What if I Fail?

With all of these pledges we've been making, to pray, to fast, to read my bible more regularly, to attend church more frequently, to give a little more over the next three years toward the building project, etc., what happens if I fail to live up to my vows made?

What happens when I forget to read the book of Romans one night. What does it mean if I fail to pray for those people I've promised to pray for?

What can I do if some tragedy means I can't afford to give what I had wanted?

These are questions that may have gone through your mind as you considered filling out a pledge card; as you checked

the box that says that you promise to pray for God to provide for the building program; or as you filled out the spiritual renewal pledge sheet. Perhaps these concerns even kept you from making any pledge whatsoever.

If you've ever made a New Years resolution or tried giving something up for Lent, you know the challenge it is to keep such vow. If you've ever made a promise to your grandkids or spouse and have been unable to, unwilling to, or maybe just forgot to keep it, you know this fear.

To all this Christ comes and says, “Fear not! I am faithful

where you have failed. I have taken all your guilt for promises left undone. I still keep my promises for you. I said on Calvary, ‘It is finished,’ and I meant it and meant it.”

Undoubtedly we will stumble and fall no matter how strongly we felt as we checked a box or wrote a number. All of these and the rest of our failings are forgiven in Christ. And each time we fall, it's another opportunity to live as a Christian: realizing our sin and receiving the blood of Jesus that covers it. Your failure is guaranteed, but fear not, for so is Christ's work for you.

- Pastor Siebert

# Thank You Campaign Volunteers!

As we finish up with the active portion of our capital campaign and begin our three years of follow-up, let's take a moment to thank our campaign team volunteers.

It is always a difficult thing to give thanks to people appropriately when so many lend a hand to a special effort. That is how our campaign has progressed. People, from campaign leaders Tucker and PJ Kehoe, Joan Primrose, and Carol Hansel, the Board of Elders, Pastors Mackay and Siebert, all the team leaders, all the team helpers, and many, many others who just stepped in to help when and where they could, all worked to give our "Open the Doors of Peace" campaign a most favorable start to the three-year follow-up that will help our church pass on our heritage in Christ. May God be praised for you all.



## A Successful Campaign Will:

- ◆ Provide needed updates to our physical property
- ◆ Provide a convenient gathering place for before and after services
- ◆ Provide better accessibility to all parts of the building

## Case Statement

### *Open the Doors of Peace*

This is an exciting time in our parish. We have two new pastors who are forward-looking and ready to grow with God's grace. While we desire to open our doors wide for the gifts of Christ to be shared with all, there are obstacles. We want to serve the gospel to all but our church is not easily accessible to our guests and members. Many areas of our facility are difficult to access and we do not have convenient fellowship space large enough for all to gather.

To situate Peace for the next century, we need a building that accommodates all ages and cultures, inviting the generations to come into meaningful worship. God has opened the doors of heaven to us in the Divine Service, a foretaste of heaven on earth. A new sanctuary and improved fellowship space on the ground floor with better accessibility for all is where we are staking our future and growth. It is time to Open the Doors of Peace.