



September 30, 2019

Dear Lord of Life Family,

“What’s next?”

Here is what’s next for the Blackford family: we’re expecting our fourth child, due in March! We’re thrilled and we want to share the good news with you. Please keep baby Blackford and Amy in your prayers.

In February, I began asking God, “What’s the next big thing for our church?”
Over time, he made it clear: pay down debt.

I kept asking the Lord for another direction, but he continued to make it clear: pay down debt. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Romans 13:8, “*Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another.*” Christ paid our eternal debts so that we would have freedom. He made it clear that our debt is like shackles around the ankles of our church. He made it clear we need to do something about it. He made it clear: take off the shackles, it is time to run!

I sought out feedback from members in our church. When told we have \$3.64 million in debt from the 2004-2005 expansion, each person felt the urgency to attack the debt and position our church for the future. The elected leadership was presented with a plan to pay down the debt. The Executive Committee and the Governing Board felt the urgency and approved the plan. They felt it was time to act.

Here is the plan: **pay down our debt by at least \$500,000 over 2 years**. It would be great to reduce our debt to \$0. However, a more realistic approach is to combine our efforts over 2 years to knock it down at least \$500,000.

By reducing our debt at least \$500,000, we’ll be able to:

- **Hire a children’s ministry director** from the General Fund income
- **Make guest improvements** (directional signage, improve the front entrance overhang, sound system)
- **Spiritually grow** by praying and offering God a 2-year sacrificial gift over and above our tithes and offerings

On Sunday, I announced the launch of our new capital campaign: **Further, Together, For Christ!**

- **Further:** We can go further, faster by paying down our debt.
- **Together:** We can achieve this goal, only if we all join together.
- **For Christ!** This is for Christ, His kingdom, His Church, His mission and His plans for Lord of Life Church.

On behalf of the campaign team and our elected leadership, please be praying about how you can support this campaign through prayer and financial means. Next week, you’ll receive a second letter and a pledge card. My prayer is that you’ll hear God’s call to participate in this effort to do God’s work and help connect more people with Jesus and each other. Together, with God’s help, we can achieve this goal! Please read the included FAQs page. You’ll find answers to the most common questions. It might also help if you listen to the message from Sunday which you can find at lolchurch.net. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at matt@lolchurch.net.

Let’s run...Further, Together, For Christ!

Pastor Matt