

Expand The House

A BUILDING EXPANSION THAT WILL REACH ELK RIVER AND BEYOND.

Equipping
Like Jesus...
in Community, for Community



INDOOR PLAYGROUND

ADDITIONAL KIDS CLASSROOMS

EQUIPPING CLASSROOMS

YTH WORSHIP CENTER

NEW WORSHIP CENTER

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“WHY” build His church?

Written by:

Pastor Dave Johnson



Dear River of Lifer...

While praying about the future of our church, I sought God’s wisdom. The Holy Spirit slowed me down and directed me to fast for seven days so I could hear directly from God the guidance He has on “why” we build His church. More specifically, I asked God two questions: “Why do you want us to expand our facility?” and “How do we do it?”

On day four of my fast, God downloaded revelation into me. The “why” shocked me the most because it was not centered on our physical need for more space. The “why” was centered on God and His desire for us to be in daily relationship and communication with Him. The revelation is to become one with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to thirst and hunger for His righteousness rather than thirst and hunger for a bigger building. The “why” of this building expansion is not about expanding the building, it’s about growing in our faith with God.

The “why” shocked me the most because it was not centered on our physical need for more space. The “why” was centered on God.

At the end of day four of my fast, God spoke into the “how” to move forward: die! Die to self. Put to death your dreams and take on God’s destiny for our church. This is where God revealed personal and practical revelation. Friends, this facility expansion is a huge undertaking and it goes way beyond a one- or two-month journey. It is the beginning of God doing a new thing in us. It’s about equal sacrifice but not equal giving. It’s about embracing and living out God’s vision He gave us a year ago: Equipping like Jesus - in community; for community.

Church, God’s Holy Spirit is moving, guiding, and blessing us to expand our redemptive destiny, both spiritually and physically! The expansion of our redemptive destiny does not begin with bricks, it begins with bodies. God is about caring for the lost and getting them into an authentic Christian community. Being an effective follower of Jesus isn’t difficult, but it does necessitate that we all slow down and ask God “Why am I doing this?” and “How do you want me to participate?”

Please slow down and ask God those two questions and listen to what He reveals. After God reveals your unique contribution, don’t shrink back. God forward! Look through the windshield and not the rear-view mirror!

On the Victory Side,

Dave Johnson

HISTORY OF R

1997

BOUGHT 53 ACRES

After a miraculous encounter, we were able to purchase 53 acres from a woman who specifically wanted to sell her land to a church.

1993

BIRTH OF ROL

River of Life started as a church plant in 1993 from the Burns Evangelical Free Church and Joy Evangelical Free Church. Started meeting in Lincoln Elementary School.

2001

OFFICIALLY OPENED THEIR DOORS

After 4 years of building, River of Life was able to open their doors to the public!



IVER OF LIFE

2016

PROJECT "REFRESH"

Embarked on a project called, "Refresh". What began as a foyer remodel, turned into a face-lift of nearly the entire building.

2024

BUILDING EXPANSION

With every square inch of our facility being utilized almost everyday of the week, we realized we needed to EXPAND THE HOUSE!

2023

EQUIPPING BEGAN

The Lord gave BOTH the staff and overseers the vision of "Equipping like Jesus, in Community, for Community".



EXPAND T



THE HOUSE



THE HOUSE

PHASE 1 KIDS



PHASE 2 YTH + EQUIPPING



PHASE 3 WORSHIP CENTER



DETAILS:

SPACE COMPARISONS	CURRENT BUILDING	AFTER EXPANSION
SQUARE FOOTAGE	23,350	66,250
# OF CLASSROOMS	8	16
WORSHIP CENTER SEATING	450	650+
KIDS SQUARE FOOTAGE	10,676	15,426
YTH SPACE	SHARED LOBBY + WORSHIP CENTER	7,768

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NEW CLASSROOMS
- RESTROOMS
- KIDS WORSHIP CENTER
- INDOOR PLAYGROUND
- SENSORY ROOM
- STAFF OFFICES
- YTH WORSHIP CENTER
- EQUIPPING CLASSROOMS
- CONFERENCE ROOM
- LARGE LOBBY
- COFFEE AREA
- KITCHEN
- WORSHIP CENTER
- MOTHER'S ROOM
- GREEN ROOM
- PRAYER ROOM

OUR GOAL OUR GOAL

River of Life has been debt free on the acreage and current facility for some time now. We're passionate about financial stewardship and believe that God has and will continue to bless us and allow us to bless our community because we strive to be good stewards of the resources that he has given us.

Expanding our facility is a big undertaking but it's not one that we're willing to go in debt over. We want to fund this project fully through each phase and open the doors to our new facility with no debt. We truly believe that through good stewardship and your intentional giving we can do just that. This will ensure that our church is in a healthy standing financially and that we're able to do more to impact our community both during the project and after it's finished.

OUR GOAL

DEBT FREE MOVE IN: \$12.06 Million

*This total number is an estimate and subject to change as the exact expansion costs become more clear.

TIMELINE

We hope to begin phase 1 late summer 2024 and finish phase 3 late winter 2027.

*Again, this timeline is an estimate and subject to change as the exact expansion plans become more clear.

OUR GOAL OUR GOAL

PHASE 1:

TOTAL COST: \$1,660,000
COMPLETION DATE: Jan 2025

- 4 new classrooms
- Remove kids entrance and convert to storage closet
- New Worship / Large group space
- Indoor playground
- Restrooms
- New Check in Area
- Sensory Room



PHASE 2:

TOTAL COST: \$4,200,000
COMPLETION DATE: Jan 2026

- YTH Worship Center
- YTH Lobby + Cafe
- Restrooms
- 4 Classrooms for Equipping / YTH Small Groups
- Staff Offices
- Conference Room



PHASE 3:

TOTAL COST: \$6,200,000
COMPLETION DATE: Jan 2027

- Large Lobby
- Coffee Area
- Kitchen
- Worship Center w/ 650-person capacity
- Mother's room
- Green room
- Prayer room



PHASE 1

KIDS	KIDS	KIDS
KIDS	KIDS	KIDS
KIDS	KIDS	KIDS
KIDS	KIDS	KIDS
KIDS	KIDS	KIDS

ROL Kids is a thriving ministry that is growing day by day. Not only do we provide worship and discipleship every Sunday for your children, but on Wednesday nights, we serve an extended group of families who do not attend on Sunday mornings. We are reaching into hundreds of families in our community - families who may never attend a regular church service.

With the phase one expansion of ROL Kids wing, our goal is to provide space for our growing children’s ministry - rooms that are optimal for learning about Jesus and play spaces that will provide greater engagement. In this phase of the expansion, we will develop age specific classrooms that are customized for each grade level. We will be designing a special space for your fourth and fifth graders, who are in that transition age and need a place to shine.

Our new indoor play area will be a GAME CHANGER for both Sunday/Wednesday children’s programming, and also for our childcare ministry. The indoor play area will provide needed winter time relief, when it is too cold to go outside. It will provide room for games and activities that reinforce the weekly Bible lessons. And as equipping opportunities expand, we will be able to provide child care that is fun and engaging, as well as safe and secure. We also can’t wait to open up this space for our community to use in the future. The possibilities are truly endless with this new space!

Last but not least, we want to provide a worship experience and environment that is designed with YOUR kids in mind. Having an ROL Kids Worship Center will allow us to customize the space with children in mind. We believe children are God’s number one priority, and our building expansion places your children’s worship and discipleship needs at the top of the list.





Break Ground: Late Summer 2024

Completion: Jan, 2025

Total Cost: \$1,660,000

Current SQ FT: 10,676

Completed SQ FT: 15,426

THE PLAN:

- 4 new classrooms
- Remove kids entrance and convert to storage closet
- New Worship / Large group space
- Indoor playground
- Restrooms
- New Check in Area
- Sensory Room

PANORAMIC VIEW



PHASE 2

YTH + EQUIPPING
 YTH + EQUIPPING
 YTH + EQUIPPING
 YTH + EQUIPPING
 YTH + EQUIPPING

YTH

ROL YTH is quickly filling every corner of our current space. We have served nearly 350 different teens in one way or another over the past year and we want to continue serving them well. During phase 2 of this project we will be creating a YTH space for the first time ever at River of Life. This will include a lobby area, cafe, worship space, additional bathrooms and more! Having a dedicated space designed with the next generation in mind means that students will be able to come from across the county to a place where they can feel safe, seen, and loved both by leaders in the room and God. We'll be able to decorate, host events, and create environments centered around building healthy relationships with others and Jesus. Our mission to equip like Jesus requires some additional space that will allow us to gather, train, encounter God, and be able to send people out to change the world around them. Phase 2 includes a worship area for our YTH that will be able to be used on Sunday mornings as overflow for our services as we continue to grow and anticipate a move of God.

EQUIPPING

The vision of ROL is "Equipping Like Jesus - In Community, For Community". We believe that raising up a generation that is prepared to take a living Gospel OUTSIDE the walls of the church is one of the foundational purposes of the church. Our building expansion plan includes many new classrooms where we will be hosting and teaching a wide variety of equipping classes on Biblical topics. These classes will prepare you to transform your homes and communities. Our vision includes a desire to EMPOWER you and to SEND you to fulfill the great commission. Our building expansion will create the needed space for this sending mission. The new youth building will serve dual purposes - to provide desperately needed space for our ever growing youth ministry, and to provide equally important space for our adult equipping programs - so that our homes, workplaces, restaurants and grocery stores can host the Kingdom of God.





Break Ground: Spring 2025
 Completion: Jan, 2026
 Total Cost: \$4,200,000
 Current SQ FT: 10,805
 Completed SQ FT: 26,805

THE PLAN:

- YTH Worship Center
- YTH Lobby + Cafe
- Restrooms
- 4 Classrooms for Equipping / YTH Small Groups
- Staff Offices
- Conference Room

PANORAMIC VIEW



PHASE 3

WORSHIP CENTER
WORSHIP CENTER
WORSHIP CENTER
WORSHIP CENTER
WORSHIP CENTER

River of Life is growing! As God continues to work through River of Life, we want to be able to provide the space for Him to keep moving through more people in our community. Our vision for the expanded worship center is to create a vibrant space that passionately EXALTS God, ENCOURAGES the church, EVANGELIZES to the lost with the message of hope, and ENGAGES the community.

We envision a modern facility that serves as a beacon of light, equipping the church for worship, teaching, and outreach. This expanded center will not only be a place of spiritual growth and transformation but also a hub for collaborative efforts to impact lives locally and globally. A new worship center provides an opportunity to address existing limitations and challenges in our current facility. Our infrastructure has served us well, but with our church changing and growing we are becoming limited in our capabilities to keep pressing into God's calling on our ministries. We want our space to be specifically built for the needs we are facing by creating a space custom built for River of Life church. Improving many things like sound, design, lighting, live stream quality, and video.

By investing in a new worship center, we can overcome these obstacles and create a more inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone in our communities can fully participate in the life of the church. Sunday is one of the most opportune times for River of Life to invite their neighbors, and we want to create an environment for them that displays the church's mission to: Discover, Connect, Serve, and Give.





Break Ground: Spring 2026

Completion: Jan, 2027

Total Cost: \$6,200,000

Current SQ FT: 0

Completed SQ FT: 22,150

THE PLAN:

- Large Lobby
- Coffee Area
- Kitchen
- Worship Center w/ 650-person capacity
- Mother's room
- Green room
- Prayer room

PANORAMIC VIEW



INVEST IN THE HOUSE

Would you join us in asking the Lord what your household can CHEERFULLY give as you help INVEST in building THE HOUSE?

We are believing BY FAITH that we can raise \$12 million dollars so we can build HIS church DEBT FREE.

Will you believe with us?



ONLINE GIVING

Giving online is the easiest way to give. Give online [HERE](#) --->

We incur a 2% processing fee for online gifts. To avoid the fee, you can give by cash or check!



CASH/CHECKS

Gifts can be dropped off in our offering boxes or mailed to the church office
21695 Elk Lake RD NW
Elk River, MN 55330

Please put "EXPAND THE HOUSE" in the memo

CRYPTO/STOCKS

You can now donate 40+ different cryptocurrencies, stocks and bonds. Donating cryptocurrency or stock is tax-deductible and treated as a non-cash contribution by the IRS. Once you have submitted your donation online, you will receive an IRS compliant contribution receipt for all cryptocurrency gifts.



NON-TRADITIONAL GIFTS

Qualified Charitable Distribution and Donor-Advised Fund grants are made by check. Some DAF grants can be sent via eft.

PLEDGES

If you would like to commit to giving a future, one time gift or a recurring gift over the next 36 months, set up a pledge amount [HERE](#) --->



QUESTIONS?

DURING THIS TIME OF SIGNIFICANT TRANSITION FOR OUR COMMUNITY, WE WANT TO BE SURE PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED, AND THE COMMUNITY IS WELL INFORMED. HERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS WE HOPE TO HELP ANSWER FOR YOU. SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO SEE ADDITIONAL FAQ'S. IF YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL EXPANDTHEHOUSE@ROLMN.ORG.

Q. WHAT WILL OUR CURRENT LOBBY AND SANCTUARY BECOME?

A. Our dream for our current sanctuary is for it to become a true gymnasium. Our hope is to remove the stage and sound booth to create a full court. There is potential to get lines back on the floor + to install a sport court. Our lobby gives potential to add additional classrooms if we are ever in need. The lobby will also function as a waiting room for parents when kids are using the gym.

Q. I DON'T HAVE VERY MUCH MONEY TO CONTRIBUTE, BUT I REALLY WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS JOURNEY - HOW CAN I HELP?

A. We believe that every financial contribution, if made cheerfully and out of love, is powerful. In addition to financial donations (however "small" they may be), this new building will bring additional roles for serving and volunteering that we'd love for you to consider - you will hear more about these kinds of opportunities on Sundays and through emails.

Q. HOW DID WE DECIDE ON THIS BUILDING CONCEPT?

A. There is a building committee that is made up of 2 staff members, 2 overseers and an overseer wife. This team has been meeting with the architects. Plans are looked over by both staff and overseer teams.

Q. WILL THE COMMUNITY BE ABLE TO USE OUR UPDATED BUILDING?

A. We are SO excited to offer our building for our community. The whole plan is yet to be fleshed out but there is potential for the indoor playground, gymnasium and worship centers to be used by our community! We want this house to be a gift and a hub for our city.

Q. HOW WILL HAVING THIS BUILDING CHANGE OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING?

A. We are excited to expand and diversify River of Life's ministry offerings - exact timing and programming will be rolled out as each phase is completed.

Q. IS THE GOAL TO BE DEBT FREE?

A. Yes, the goal is to be completely debt free. We will not be taking any loans out for this expansion!

Q. HOW WILL CONSTRUCTION AFFECT WEEKLY PROGRAMMING?

A. We are looking to still offer weekly programming during this process. We are just asking for our congregation to be flexible as it may “LOOK” a little different for awhile.

Q. CAN I USE THE UPDATED WORSHIP CENTER TO GET MARRIED?

A. YES! We offer our currently facility for weddings and can't wait to offer a bigger space for weddings, banquets and more!

Q. WHAT WILL SECURITY LOOK LIKE WHEN THE WHOLE EXPANSION IS COMPLETED?

A. The safety of both you and your kids are a number 1 priority for us at River of Life. We currently have a security team but we plan to expand this team even more as our building square footage increases. We will also have the ability to lock down entrances and exits throughout the whole building with updated technology.

Q. WHY DO WE NEED MORE STAFF OFFICES?

A. We currently have 5 staff offices that are shared between 13 staff members. More staff offices will allow our staff to grow as our building grows.

Q. WHAT DOES PHASE 3 MEAN FOR THE OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND AND VOLLEYBALL COURT?

A. We will be moving the outdoor playground and the volleyball court over to the east side of the building behind the kids side. We foresee this being utilized all the time!

Q. HOW WILL OUR PARKING LOT CHANGE TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWTH?

A. our plan is to add additional parking spaces on the northeast side of the building.

SCAN HERE TO
SEE MORE FAQ'S



PRAYER!

PARTNERING WITH US ON THIS PROJECT DOESN'T MEAN JUST FINANCIAL HELP. WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS. WE WANT TO COVER THIS ENTIRE PROJECT IN PRAYER AS WE HAVE FROM THE BEGINNING OF IT'S CONCEPTION UNTIL THE DOORS OPEN AND WE'RE FULLY FUNDED. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR RIVER OF LIFE; WOULD YOU PARTNER WITH US IN SEEKING THAT OUT THROUGH PRAYER? WE WANT GOD TO BE HONORED, GLORIFIED, AND PROCLAIMED!

WAYS YOU CAN BE PRAYING:

- PRAY THAT THIS BUILDING BECOMES A HUB FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.
- PRAY THAT THE PROJECT GOES SMOOTHLY, THAT EVERYTHING IS FINISHED ON TIME AND WITHIN THE PROPOSED BUDGET.
- PRAY THAT GOD LEADS US IN WISDOM ON HOW WE CAN USE OUR SPACE WELL AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- PRAY FOR GOD'S PERFECT PROVISION AND TIMING. WE WANT HIS VERY BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY.
- PRAY FOR UNITY AMONGST STAFF AND OVERSEERS AS WE CONTINUE TO MAKE BIG DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.
- PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THOSE THAT COME TO WORK ON OUR FACILITIES AND HELP US BRING THIS VISION TO LIFE.

WANT TO SEE MORE?



**EQUIPPING LIKE JESUS,
IN COMMUNITY,
FOR COMMUNITY.**

