



Capital Campaign Feasibility and Visioning CASE FOR SUPPORT

St. Luke Lutheran Church – *Who We Are*

Worship – Connect – Serve

Marked with the Cross of Christ, we joyfully worship as a community and pass on the faith by: Enhancing personal spiritual growth; Building generational bridges; Serving our neighbors; Welcoming diversity; and Striving for peace. We ask God to help and guide us.

St. Luke Lutheran Church – *A History of our Church Property*

On October 24, 1943, a small group of people met at the American Legion hall in Multnomah for the first worship of a mission congregation that was to become St. Luke Lutheran Church. In 1944 a lot was purchased at SW 45th and Garden Home road and the first chapel was built with volunteer labor. The first service in the chapel – and the official day of organization for St. Luke Lutheran Church – was held January 17, 1945. 76 charter members were accepted that day.

In 1946, the first parsonage was purchased and an annex was added to the church to accommodate the Sunday School. In the early 1950's, a new parsonage was built, and an education unit was added to the church further expanding Sunday School capacity.

In 1956 a major capital campaign was launched toward the construction of a new church. In 1957, 2.9 acres were purchased at the current location, and construction began in February 1960. The new church was dedicated November 6, 1960.

In 1963, St. Luke Play School was established and additional land was purchased next to the church for the construction of a new parsonage which was dedicated in August 1964.

A major property improvement effort was launched in 1977 to modify the parsonage into the present Shalom Center and to make improvements in the church building. On September 13, 1987, ground was broken for the Parish Education and Administrative wing to the north along with the enlargement of the narthex and library along with other renovations. Dedication took place on June 5, 1988. In 1994 our elevator was installed.

The Vermont House was purchased in 2007 to enlarge the St. Luke Lutheran Church campus as both our Sunday School spaces and parking were fully utilized. This provided the church a presence on Vermont Street. A mortgage is currently paid on this property. The Commercial Building was purchased in 2009. This building is leased to business tenants who provide rent to the church to pay for expenses and the mortgage. The back of the Commercial Building parking lot is used by the church on Sunday mornings.

In 2013 St. Luke Lutheran Church adopted a Master Plan for building expansion and conducted a capital campaign which funded expanding the NW stairwell, expanding the narthex, redesigning the upper parking lot and patio space, gaining control of SW 46th Ave and California St. by street vacation, paying down a portion of the church's mortgage, and making a significant contribution to benevolence outside our doors. During this time, solar panels were installed on the church building helping the church reduce its carbon footprint by generating some of our own electricity.

St. Luke Lutheran Church has been a place of inspirational worship and excellent music; spiritual development through Bible study and faith formation programs for youth and adults; fellowship and connection through all-church meals and events and through a variety of ministry groups; service within the church and outreach outside our walls to our community and beyond; peace and justice initiatives; and environmental issues highlighting our care for God's creation. St. Luke Lutheran Church recently became a "Reconciling in Christ" Lutheran church that welcomes the full participation of individuals of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

St. Luke Lutheran Church has also been blessed to be a church marked by faithful commitment and generous giving with a dedication to benevolence giving. The church is known for its "Grauer Back to School Program" where school supplies are given to students, and the "Community Table Program" where food is given to support our food insecure neighbors.

St. Luke Lutheran Church – *Vitality For Ministry*

Today St. Luke Lutheran Church is an incredibly vibrant faith community. In this post-pandemic era, we continue to seek ways for our church to fulfill its mission in service to the greater Portland area, the larger Pacific Northwest region and the world. We recognize the importance of excellence in programming and providing for reliable and serviceable facilities through which our ministry occurs.

Our church campus (church building, Shalom Center, Vermont House and Commercial Building) bears the marks of generations who have gone before us, and future generations will have their say in the shaping of our church. We have an opportunity in our time to address several current needs as we dream the future of St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Guided by our commitment to the key elements of our common life – Worship, Connect, Serve – we seek to accomplish two "must do" projects as well as a variety of additional projects that will enhance and improve our church campus and strengthen our capacity for ministry.

The three essential items we must address are:

1. Installing a new HVAC system to provide environmentally-friendly heating and cooling. Our current heating system is old, has needed replacing for years and is very expensive to repair. Recently, we've had difficulty reliably heating the worship space on Sundays. Additionally, we don't have the capacity to effectively cool parts of our building in the summer months.
2. A significant retrofit/upgrade to our elevator is now required to meet state codes and keep it operational. Our elevator is old and has become very difficult and expensive to repair.
3. Our outdoor play area is nearly unusable and not a welcoming space. We are reimagining this area to be a multigenerational outdoor space including a play area for younger children, benches and tables for caregivers to connect and share fellowship, and a flat area for all ages to use for active play or outdoor gatherings. We want an outdoor space we can be proud of which is inclusive and environmentally friendly.

The additional projects we seek to accomplish include:

1. The Vermont House basement and patio need significant upgrades to make it a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable space for our youth and for housing supplies for our Grauer school supply program.
2. Our Shalom space on the lower-level needs remodeling to meet the needs of our Community Table – food distribution program, and the other groups that meet there.
3. Create single-use non-gendered restrooms.
4. Completing needed renovations in our Commercial Building,
5. Upgrading our security system.
6. Making improvements to our parking lot.
7. Building up our reserve funds for continued maintenance and repairs on all of our properties.
8. Potentially installing two EV charging stations.
9. Replacing older windows to improve energy efficiency.
10. Paying down our existing \$948,000 mortgage debt.

The projected funding goal range to complete all of the above projects is \$1.75M to \$2.5M. Funds would be raised through a special appeal to the congregation above and beyond our annual stewardship.

