

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

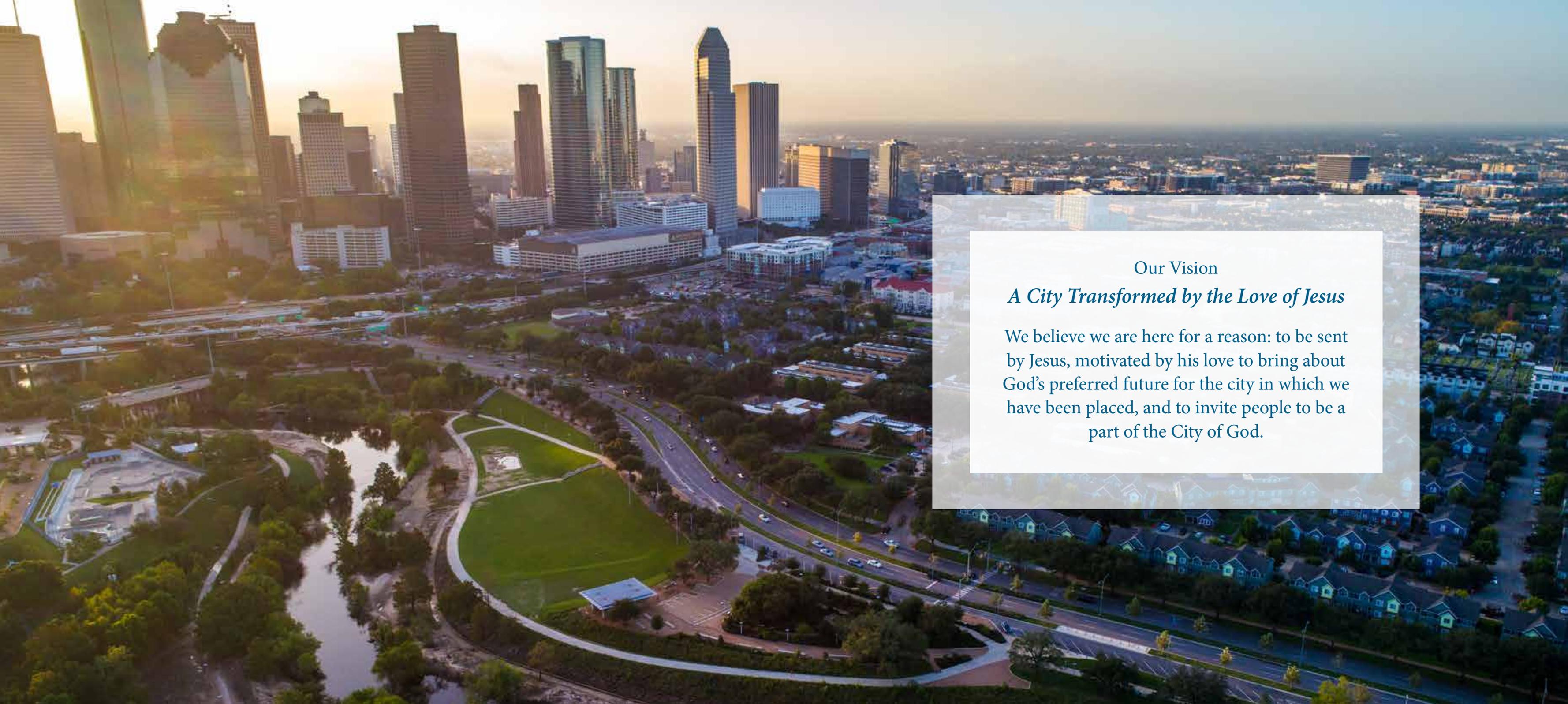
TRANSFORMED

HEARTS · LIVES · COMMUNITIES



Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...

—Jeremiah 29:7a



Our Vision

A City Transformed by the Love of Jesus

We believe we are here for a reason: to be sent by Jesus, motivated by his love to bring about God's preferred future for the city in which we have been placed, and to invite people to be a part of the City of God.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROPOSAL 1	SUPPORT SMALL STEPS	06
PROPOSAL 2	BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER	10
PROPOSAL 3	SUPPORT PX PROJECT	16
PROPOSAL 4	RETIRE GARAGE DEBT	18
PROPOSAL 5	BUILD A WOODSHOP	20
PROPOSAL 6	RESTORE THE HISTORIC SPIRE AND ENHANCE THE WESTHEIMER CAMPUS	21
	Capital Campaign Goal	22
	FAQ	24
	Ways to Give	26
	Message from our Co-Chairs Martha and Bruce Jamison	28
	Prayer Journal	29

A LETTER FROM PASTOR TOM PACE



Transformed!

Recently, I was on a Zoom call with fourteen people from various organizations in our city, only about half of them I had ever met before. The first step on the call was to introduce ourselves to one another. I said I was a pastor at St. Luke's, and a woman (who happened to be Hindu) said, "Oh, you are that church that does great stuff in the city, right?" I thought it was a funny statement, "does great stuff in the city." But I answered, "Yes, that is us!"

There are many reasons I am so proud to be a part of St. Luke's. They include the amazing children's ministry, the student ministry that changes so many lives, the marvelous and diverse music, the great opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship, the innovative spirit, and the really special love and care for one another that pervades our halls and interactions, just to name a few. But, I am particularly motivated by our belief and practice that we are here to make a concrete and significant difference in our city, not just for ourselves, but for others.

This year, we have the opportunity to take significant steps forward in transforming lives, families, and neighborhoods in Houston. The "Transformed" campaign finishes the work we started in 2013, but more importantly, this campaign takes us to a new level of service to our city. Just as we built a Student Ministry building on our Westheimer campus, our new youth Community Center will provide a place for the students in our Gulfton/Sharpstown neighborhood to gather and experience together the love of Christ. It capitalizes on our entrepreneurial spirit in the community service sector and on our partnerships with best practice organizations that change lives. I believe it is what God put us here in this city to do. I hope you will join me in this important work.

Please take a look at all the exciting proposals that will work together to transform hearts, lives, families, and communities as you turn the page...



St. Luke's, partnering with Small Steps Nurturing Center (SSNC.org), has opened a no-tuition, quality, early childhood education program at Gethsemane for economically at-risk children ages two and three. Set in a Christian context, Small Steps focuses on student and family support, including mental health services, occupational, speech and physical therapy, and other proven childhood interventions.

“Small Steps serves not only the child but the family—making sure they are fed, making sure they have clothes, making sure they feel loved and heard. Our social-emotional curriculum gets to the root of the hardships they're facing, making school a safe place.”

—Kentasha McMorris, Program Director
Small Steps Gulfton Campus



DID YOU KNOW...?

Children who do not read on level by the end of grade 3 have only a

1 IN 8 CHANCE

of ever catching up and are 4 times more likely to drop out of school.

60% OF HOUSTON AREA CHILDREN

enter kindergarten each year lacking requisite reading skills.

Research shows that for every **\$1 INVESTED in early childhood education and pre-kindergarten programs**, the return on investment is **\$7**.

Source: Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation

“We do welcome everyone from the community to find God's favor and love, making sure that we are instilling traits in our kids that will make them kind, little human beings.”

—Kentasha McMorris



A MOTHER'S STORY



The mother of Luqman, a founding student at Small Steps Gulfton, shared the story of his transformation in just the first few weeks of school:

Luqman was having trouble adjusting to school. He was excited in the morning, but the moment we arrived, he would become scared. Getting him out of the car was a struggle, and once he was out, he ran for the nearest exit. Mrs. Kentasha would help him get out and, even when it was hard, kept trying.

After the Winter Storm when school returned, we were worried about how it would go. Mrs. Kentasha came to our car with her smiling eyes, and Luqman instantly said, "Good Morning, car seat - OUT!" He jumped out the car, held Mrs. Kentasha's hand, and told us, "Bye." We are so proud of him!

TRANSFORMED · HEARTS ·

Reaching young people for Christ is at the core of this campaign, as it transforms lives for generations to come.

“St. Luke’s has taught me to use my faith as a starting point for everything that I do and has led me to lean further into the Holy Spirit when it seems easier to push my faith away.”



Mackenzie's Story

Hi! My name is Mackenzie Rice, and I feel so lucky to be a student at St. Luke's. Before beginning Pure Sound and confirmation in 6th grade, my family and I were not regular church attenders. I had learned about God who loves me from St. Luke's Day School and said a blessing before family dinners, but that was about the extent of my faith. So, when I entered the Student Ministry building, most of what I heard was new to me. My faith for the first few years was modeled after what I saw from people around me, reading a devotional, highlighting my Bible, the occasional group prayer, etc. It was surface level, but I didn't know that faith was more than what other people see.

The summer after my 7th grade year I went on a St. Luke's trip to Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. We attended Christ in Youth's Mix event, and there I learned who the Holy Spirit is and was able to truly experience God. My heart was transformed. Through Mix and Student Ministries, I developed the necessary habits for a strong faith foundation and relationship with Jesus. A couple of years later I still see myself on a journey, motivated to explore the calling of being Jesus' disciple and leaning into what he has in store for my life. Having a strong community of people that truly love and care about me at St. Luke's has taught me to use my faith as a starting point for everything that I do and has led me to lean further into the Holy Spirit when it seems easier to push my faith away. I know that my story is far from over and that God has a great plan for my life, but I am so grateful for the community at St. Luke's I am surrounded by now!

BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER



Ever since St. Luke's merged with Gethsemane UMC in 2009, we have sought to be an epicenter of hope in the community. St. Luke's will build a Community Center on our Gethsemane Campus providing operating spaces for these partnerships and programs.

Our Partners and Programs

Legacy Community Healthcare identifies unmet needs and gaps in health services developing client-centered programs to address those needs. Legacy will open a healthcare clinic for uninsured and under-insured neighbors with a focus on teens and young adults. (legacycommunityhealth.org)

Houston reVision, the ministry working to break the cycle of isolation among the most profoundly disconnected at-risk youth, will have meeting and office space and will share the gym and recreational areas with Gethsemane youth.

PX Project, the new 501c3 workforce development program launched by St. Luke's, will base its operation out of the commercial kitchen, cafe and classrooms. (PXproject.org)

Gethsemane Youth Ministry will have a dedicated worship space designed especially for youth.

Connect Community, the social services networking organization focused on the Gulfton/Sharpstown area, will have its headquarters in the community center. (myconnectcommunity.org)

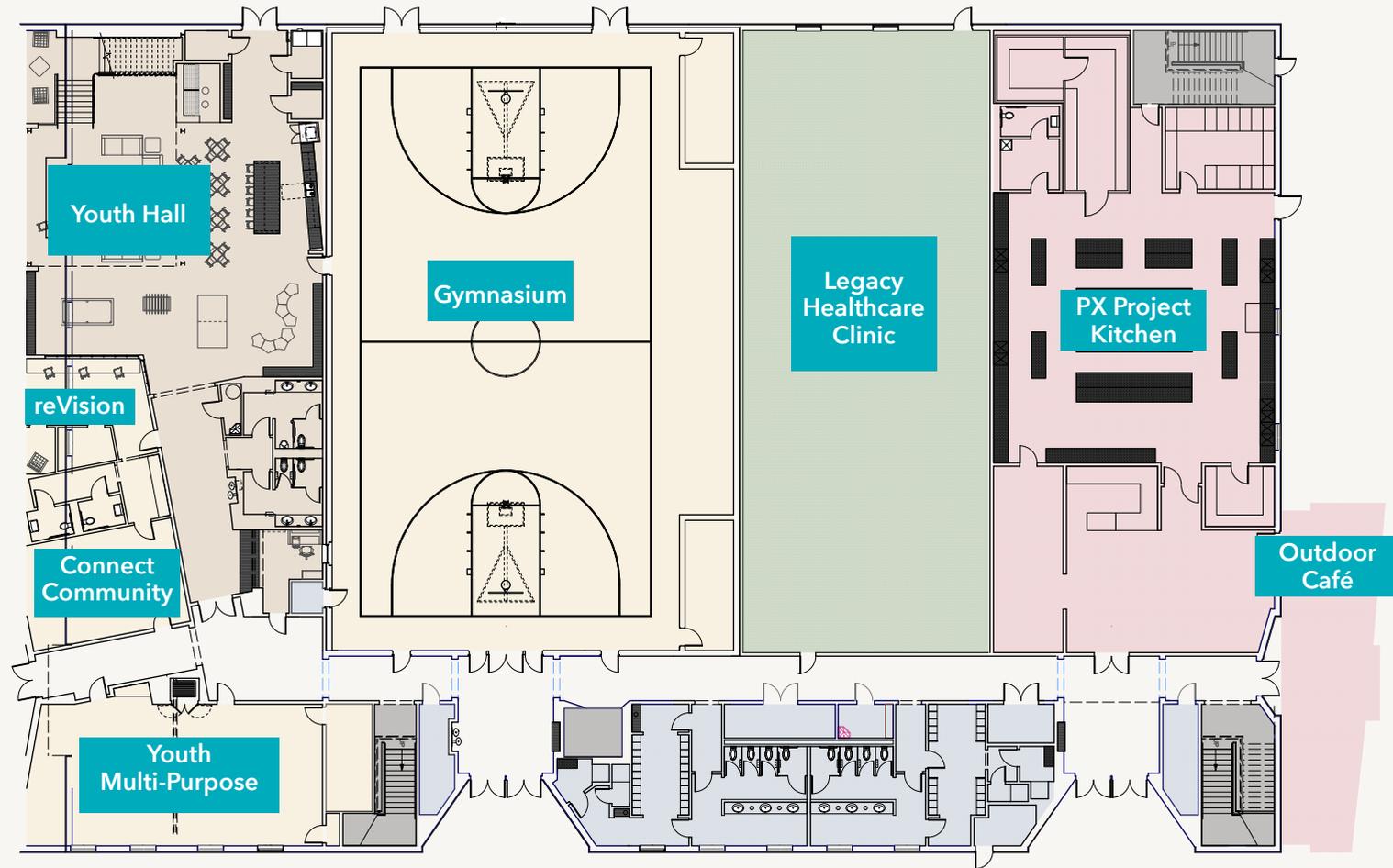
Gulfton/Sharpstown is the most diverse neighborhood in the most diverse city in the country. However, due to years of disinvestment, this largely immigrant and refugee neighborhood has become an area of concentrated poverty.

“This is more than just a partnership of service providers. We see our purpose as connecting people, building real authentic community, and empowering people to work together.”
—Tom Pace

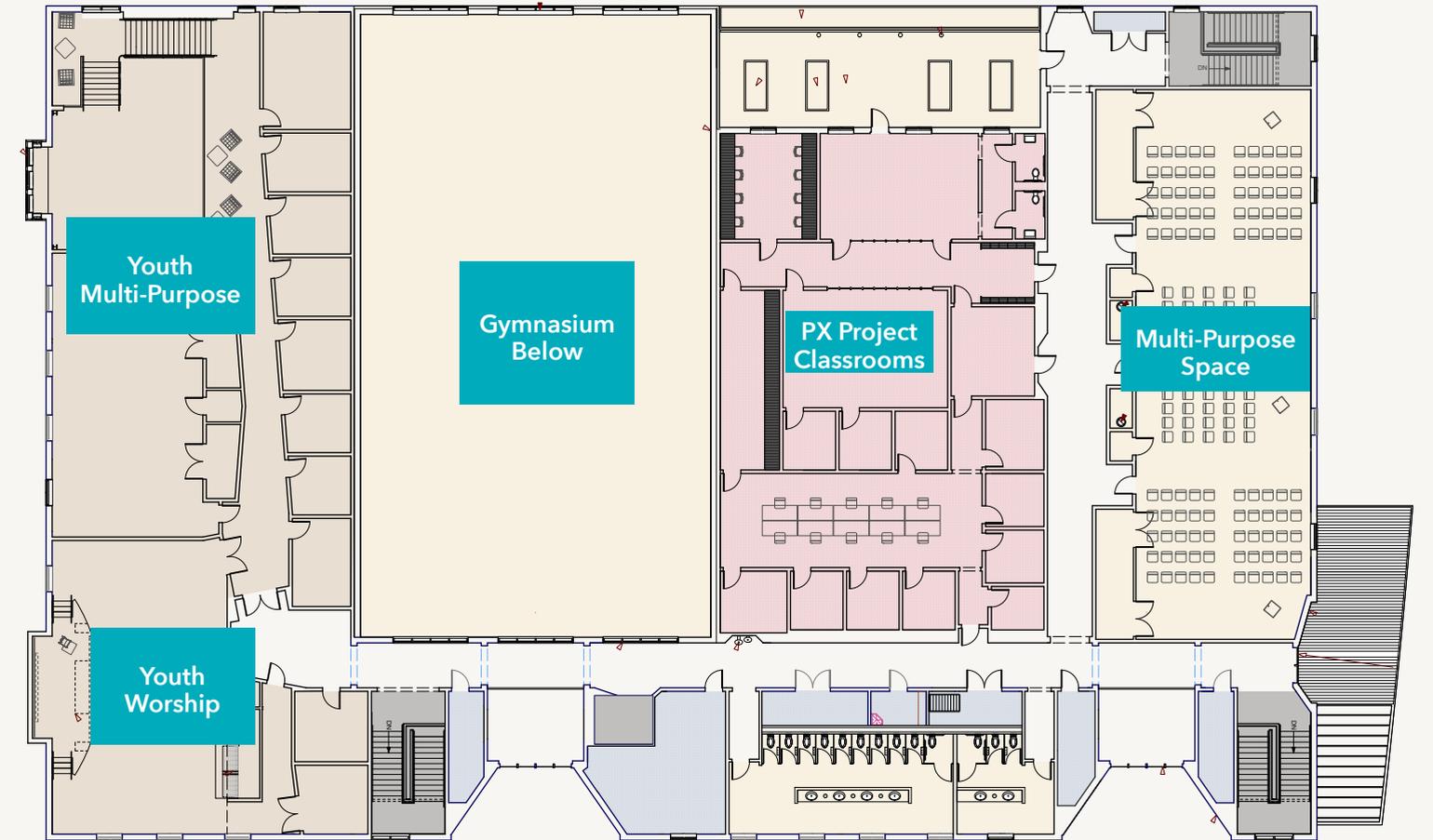


BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER

“Remember that the Community Center is more than a place for our students. The center will also house Legacy Health Care, Houston reVision, a commercial kitchen and training center for PX Project, and headquarters for Connect Community. Each of these ministries already has a successful track record. I’m so proud of our capital campaign. It’s smart. We’re taking what we know and teaming up with people who know even more. Great things will result.” —Martha Jamison



1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR

BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER



GETHSEMANE YOUTH MINISTRIES

“The dream has always been that Gethsemane is where ‘hope has an address.’ While our kids will want to come to this cool worship space designed for them on Sundays, imagine what we can offer all week. This will be the hang-out spot; a safe place to meet friends, play sports, do homework, be tutored, and mentored. We want to be the heart of the community where youth experience the love of God in all things.”—Keenen Brinson, Youth Ministries Coordinator

“Before COVID, we used to see about 200 youth gather here on Thursday nights. With the Community Center, we will have the capacity to host that again plus so much more. It’s great to see kids on a Sunday or Tuesday night, but where is the 14-year-old after school at around 4 p.m.? All of our programming makes the Gospel real to people.”

—Rev. David Horton

A Place to Call Their Own

When our Westheimer youth building opened in 2017, Student Ministries changed.

Everything went deeper. Relationships, worship, study, and commitment went deeper because the students now had a place where they could worship, play, study, and take care of each other.

Most of our students on the Westheimer campus are not lacking spaces and things of their own. They have their own rooms. Most have or will get their own cars.

Technology is a given. Even so, St. Luke’s Student Ministries went from good to great with the new building, because the students now had their own place and identity on the church campus.

Imagine what will happen with the Gethsemane Student Ministry when the new Community Center is built.

Gethsemane kids may not have their own bedrooms; they probably won’t be given their own cars. A place of their own in the new building will be life-changing. We, as a congregation, will be telling them: “We think you are worthy. We want to invest in you. We believe in you. We want you to have a place to worship, play, study, and take care of each other.” Amazing changes will follow. I know. I’ve seen it happen.

· BY BRUCE JAMISON · CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR ·

TRANSFORMED · LIVES ·

Jean’s Story

I met Jean when he was 10 years old. He died tragically young at 18. Born in Tanzania, Jean Mpawenayo was a refugee, the son of refugees fleeing war in Burundi and Congo.



His family won the lottery and immigrated to Houston when Jean was a boy. Like the baby Jesus, he was evacuated from a dangerous place by family who loved him and welcomed by us, a family who wanted him.

Gethsemane staff would pick up Jean and his family in the church bus and drive them to worship on Sundays. Jean’s family embodied,

and still does, the reason St. Luke’s merged with Gethsemane. Cramped in a little apartment, all they wanted was a church home and church family who would surround them with tangible expressions of God’s love. Jean grew up in the Gethsemane extended family. He embraced his faith after Confirmation, and I baptized him a few months later.

Jean was an overcomer. His mother worked around the clock to support the family, and when Jean became a teenager, so did he. He became the man of the house. He allowed himself to be nurtured by the St. Luke’s Student Ministry, applied himself at school and football, and was securing college recommendations before his life was taken from him.

It’s not that Jean didn’t make it. Jean *did* make it. He made it out of the life he wanted to escape. That’s what’s so heartbreaking: Jean was able to overcome mind-boggling odds by age 18. Imagine what he could have done with more time.

When I think about why we should build a community center at Gethsemane, I see Jean’s face. There are thousands more like him. I see their faces when I drive the Gethsemane neighborhood. They’re our kids. They’re overcomers. All they need is a place to go when hope runs out.

· BY REV. DAVID HORTON ·

Remembering Jean

Jean was a once in a generation student! I first met him when he volunteered during Vacation Bible School. He originally didn’t know anyone from our campus. However, by the end of the week, he was everyone’s best friend. When Jean decided to attend Student Ministries regularly, he became one of the most familiar faces. I lightheartedly referred to Jean as “the mayor of the youth group.”

Jean overcame a great deal in his short life. His contagious joy and strong faith made him a blessing to our community. He remains deeply beloved and deeply missed.

· BY ROB DULANEY ·

SUPPORT PX PROJECT

With a mission to use community and opportunity as a pathway to success, PX Project employs the kitchen as its vehicle to achieve the following three goals for our students who are often “in-between” school and work. For many, their families depend on them financially, yet they are not workforce-trained or able to continue their schooling.

- Employability skills taught in a culinary environment
- Social and emotional health
- Career and life readiness



PX – PERSONNES EXTRAORDINAIRE

In the restaurant industry the term PX is used to describe VIP patrons—extraordinary people meant to be shown extra care. We believe that all of the young people in our community, regardless of circumstances, are extraordinary people. It is our mission to harness their gifts and talents and provide the resources that will guide them to the futures which they deserve.



“I want to achieve my dreams. I choose to work so hard. I don’t want to stay in this life ... I want to move up so I can help people. I don’t want to see anyone struggle because I know what it’s like to struggle {and} live that kind of life.”

—Iluta Shabani

DID YOU KNOW...?

The population of Houston “in-between youth” represents 14.2% of young people ages 16 to 24 in the area. Nearly one in seven young adults in the Houston area is neither working nor in school. Source: US Census and Kinder Houston Area Survey



“Growing up nobody was around—I had to tell myself, ‘keep going, you are going to get there. Keep pushing.’”

—Ramadhani Ngolo

“PX supports me to reach my potential. Helps me. Pushes me.”

—Mwelwa Kisanga

PEOPLE LEARN BY DOING

This is the idea at the heart of PX Project. This experiential learning environment is combined with life and work readiness skills, case management, health and nutritional education, and the social capital that will ensure that all students leave PX Project prepared for success in life and in the workplace.



TRANSFORMED COMMUNITIES

So, how do you transform a community? It turns out there’s a method, and it is called **Purpose Built Communities** (purposebuiltcommunities.org/our-network/houston-connection-community). Purpose Built has served as a guiding consultant, and model for our work at Gethsemane. They focus on a small geographic area and create an epicenter of transformation that sends shockwaves into the neighborhood. Gethsemane is the center of our epicenter. These redevelopment efforts fall into three categories: education, wellness, and housing. If we can invest in these buckets of good work, neighborhood resurrection can’t be stopped. The new Community Center will host education and wellness programs like PX Project, Legacy Healthcare Clinic, after-school recreation in the gym, and spaces for Student Ministries and worship that are essential for spiritual wellness. The scope? Everything from cradle to career. That’s why Small Steps Nurturing Center at Gethsemane is so important. Neighborhood transformation must start in the cradle. These combined interventions should make the neighborhood a safe and vibrant place for people to be born, grown, live, and start a career. · BY REV. DAVID HORTON ·

RETIRE GARAGE DEBT

St. Luke's, through an arrangement with St. John's School, built our parking structure in 2016 on property owned by St. John's. The parking structure was a major element of St. Luke's 2014 capital campaign and was partially funded through that effort with the remainder funded through debt.

Now it's time to retire that debt allowing St. Luke's to redeploy those financial resources to ministry programs.

In 2016, St. Luke's made the **right move** in building our well-utilized parking structure. In doing so, we incurred long-term debt. Now we want to finish what we started, and it's the **right move** to retire this debt.

—Lance Schuler
Treasurer, St. Luke's Church Council

Q: When is a garage not a garage?

A: When it's a stage!

Who would have thought that a structure that accommodated our parking needs could have a completely separate use? Enter the unintended consequences of COVID. Early on in the pandemic our Music and Fine Arts singers, aching to sing safely, found a safe solution in singing outside. . . in the garage. They delighted in singing several Gregorian chants and discovered that the acoustics are incredible. And, might there be a special performance from Pure Sound in the future? Stay tuned for updates!

Q: When is a garage not just for cars?

A: When it's a ceremonial space or a dance floor!

Just ask Student Ministries about necessity being the mother of invention. Joseph Patty and the Senior Leadership Academy guys have been meeting on the top floor of the garage, and their initiation ceremony took place al fresco. Student Ministries also held a very socially distanced dance party on floor three.

Q: When is a garage not just for parking?

A: When it's a drive-thru!

On the day of our precious special needs families' Christmas party, it poured and threatened to ruin the decorated cars and gifts distribution. With a quick re-direct, our PM PALS families drove into the 2nd floor of the garage and were delighted by the event!

Q: When is a garage more than a garage?

A: When it's a planetarium!

In a once-in-800-years celestial event that's been interpreted as the "Star of Bethlehem," Jupiter and Saturn appeared 0.1° apart on the evening of December 21, 2020. One of the best inside-the-loop viewing spots? The 3rd floor of the St. Luke's garage where some of our members took in the night sky.

BUILD A NEW WOODSHOP



The Woodshop Ministry, led by our senior adults, has for many years produced hand-crafted, wooden toys for children, as well as fabricated and repaired furniture and fixtures for St. Luke's. The ministry has outgrown its existing workshop building on Edloe Street, which is also in need of repair and reconfiguration to maintain code compliance.

- The Woodshop on Edloe Street will be rebuilt
- Better, safer, more modern facility
- Additional square footage to support potential future workforce training partnerships

RESTORE THE HISTORIC SPIRE AND ENHANCE THE WESTHEIMER CAMPUS

We are called to be good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us. The capital campaign is funding the current repair of St. Luke's iconic spire.



The West Alabama entrance to the Westheimer Campus does not match the rest of St. Luke's thoughtfully designed campus. New fencing and landscaping is needed.



The Day the Spire Was Raised

"I'll never forget the day they raised the spire. Durwood was out of the city, and Jon Hugh and I decided to get stereo pictures of each phase of its hoisting. Even then, we knew it to be history making! It was BEAUTIFUL and SOARING! Pointing delicately heavenward it was a symbol of a loving and giving congregation of people who gave not only money, but of themselves.

I was driving a carpool coming up Westheimer. Way out about Voss Road (it was way out then), we saw the Spire exactly centered in Westheimer (this before other buildings were built that obscured the view). One little boy said: "Hey, look, there's a launching pad or a rocket." One of our little St. Luker's quickly replied: "It looks like a church spire to me."

Pray God, the children will always see a church spire in their lives as we and our children were privileged to be a part of building a church during our lives."

—Lurlyn Fleming

Wife of Founding Pastor, Dr. Durwood Fleming

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL

P1 - Support Small Steps
\$1,000,000 | 4%

P2 - Build a Community Center
\$15,000,000 | 65%

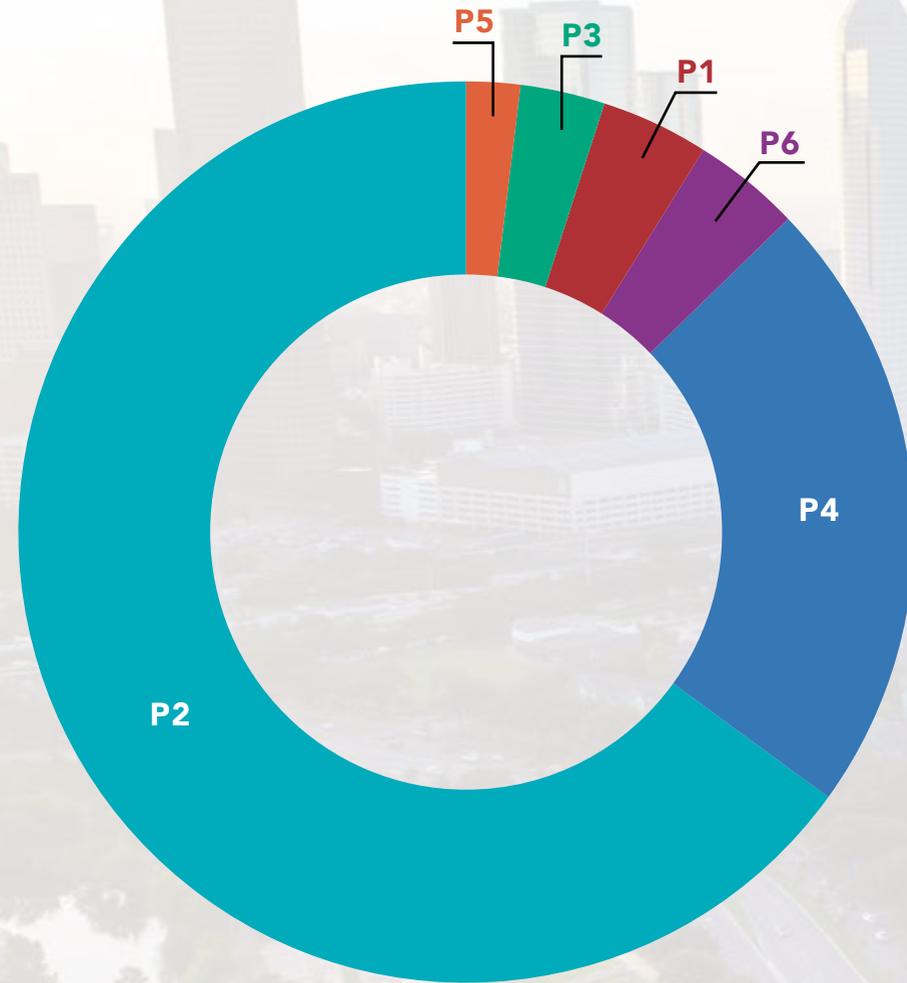
P3 - Support the PX Project
Workforce Development Program
\$750,000 | 3%

P4 - Retire Garage Debt
\$5,000,000 | 22%

P5 - Build a New Woodshop
\$800,000 | 4%

P6 - Restore the Spire, Enhance
Westheimer Campus
\$500,000 | 2%

ESTIMATED TOTAL \$23,050,000



HOW WE GET TO \$23,050,000



GIVING GUIDE

These TRANSFORMED 3-year commitments are over and above your annual generosity giving to the ministries of St. Luke's.

Total Commitment	Annual Amount	Monthly Amount
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$2,778
\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083
\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389
\$25,000	\$8,333	\$694
\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278
\$7,500	\$2,500	\$208
\$5,000	\$1,667	\$139
\$2,500	\$833	\$69
\$1,250	\$417	\$35

“This is a defining moment for St. Luke’s... and a defining moment for each of us.”

—Anne Culver
 Director of Advancement

When will we break ground on the Community Center?

First, we must have pledges in hand to support the entire Transformed Capital Campaign. Then, we will craft a timeline for the completion of each element, including when we can break ground on the Community Center. We are shooting for groundbreaking in December of 2021.

Are any of the partners contributing to the cost of the Community Center?

Connect Community, Legacy Community Health, reVision, and PX Project will participate in this through leases at discounted rates. It is important for all of us to participate in this project together.

Will St. Luke's be taking on any new debt as part of the Transformed Campaign?

No. One element of the campaign is to retire St. Luke's only outstanding debt, which was incurred to complete the construction of the church's parking garage several years ago. We will obtain bridge financing to build the facility, and we will finance the components of the building that are supported by lease agreements from our partners in the project. This project will free our operating budget from any ongoing debt service!

Why are we building a gym in the Community Center when there is one next door at the YMCA?

Next door to Gethsemane is KIPP Connect Charter School. KIPP has a cafe-gym-atorium: a large building with a cafeteria, basketball court, and stage. KIPP uses those spaces on school days for their high school students. The Houston Y operates programs in those spaces on weeknights and weekends. This means there isn't room in the schedule for our church's Student Ministries or our long-time partner, reVision, to use the building except on Sunday mornings. The schedule is simply maxed out.

Tell us more about the campaign element to fund the early childhood program at Gethsemane?

Having invested funds raised in our 2018 Christmas Offering to upgrade our Gethsemane facility to meet Texas licensing standards for a preschool, St. Luke's is now thrilled to partner with Small Steps Nurturing Center (SSNC.org) to run our new Gethsemane preschool which opened at full capacity in January. That partnership includes our contributing \$1 million to share in funding the school's operating budget for its first three years.

Can I designate my pledge to a specific project of the Transformed Campaign?

St. Luke's views the Transformed Campaign as a whole, so unrestricted giving will best enable us to meet our goals. Of course, we are thankful for all gifts, and designated pledges will be accepted with gratitude.

What amount should I give to the Transformed Campaign?

There is no giving formula for a capital campaign. We ask that you prayerfully consider a personally meaningful amount; one that will make you and your family feel truly invested in this campaign. We want you to feel that you are a part of the astounding impact that St. Luke's is making in our city.

When will the church expect payment of my pledge?

Transformed is a three-year campaign, and many will give annually or monthly. If you would like, you may also pay in one lump sum. For more specific information, please see page 26.

Will my three-year Transformed Campaign pledge be in addition to my usual financial commitment to the church's annual Generosity giving?

Thank you for asking! It is vital that we maintain support for our day-to-day operations and programs in addition to supporting the capital campaign. Fundraising for the Transformed Campaign is taking place this spring, while our 2022 Annual Generosity pledging will be this fall.

What if my financial circumstances change, and I cannot fulfill my pledge...or I want to increase it?

We can adjust. At any time during the three-year period, your pledge can be updated to reflect a change in circumstances. Simply reach out to our Finance Department.

When will we make our pledge?

Our hope is that you will experience the sermon series and complete the prayer journal that starts on May 17th (found on page 29) before deciding on your pledge. A card will be mailed to you the week of May 10th. Then, on Sunday, May 23rd we will gather (in person and online) for Commitment Sunday to present our pledge cards. Please see page 26 for all of the ways to give and deliver your pledge.

WAYS TO GIVE

In Person In addition to donating in person during worship services you can give in the following ways:

Online Visit StLukesTransformed.org to gift using a credit card or bank account draft to recur monthly or one-time.

Check or Donor Advised Fund Checks can be made payable to St. Luke's UMC with "Transformed" in the memo line and can be mailed to:

St. Luke's UMC, Attn: Finance Office
PO Box 22013, Houston, TX 77227-2013

Text to Give Text TRANSFORMED [gift amount] to 832-669-5500 to donate one time or set up a recurring gift. For example: TRANSFORMED 100. You also have the option of contributing to cover fees associated with electronic giving.

IRA Distributions Required distributions can be directed to fulfill your capital campaign commitment.

Stock Gifts This can be a very beneficial way to give a gift without paying capital gains taxes on the appreciation or the gain over your original cost.

Employer Matching Many employers have matching gift programs to eligible charitable programs. Please contact your Human Resources representative directly to inquire matching program requirements. St. Luke's will fill out required paperwork as necessary.

For stock transfer instructions, Tax ID number, or any additional questions, please contact the Finance Office at 713-402-5026 or transformed@stlukesmethodist.org.

The Federal CARES Act

For those who itemize, 2021 gifts of cash to St. Luke's are deductible to 100% of adjusted gross income, up from the usual limit of 60%, under terms of the federal CARES Act adopted in 2020.

For those who do not itemize, 2021 gifts of cash to St. Luke's are deductible, in addition to the standard deduction, in amounts up to \$300 for single taxpayers and up to \$600 for married couples filing jointly.

Note: Always consult your tax advisor concerning the application of tax laws to your particular situation.

LADDER OF GENEROSITY

EXTRAVAGANT GIVER

Someone who realizes that, although the tithe is the minimum the Bible asks, God has prompted and enabled them to give more for His Kingdom.

TITHE GIVER

Someone who has seen the blessing that comes with giving and is ready to commit to giving the tithe - 10% - (Malachi 3:10) that Scripture asks of believers.

CONSISTENT GIVER

Someone ready to be more intentional about their giving, has made an assessment, and determined to start giving consistently.

EMERGING GIVER

Someone ready to take the exciting first step towards worshiping and growing through giving.

POTENTIAL GIVER

Everyone has the opportunity to impact the Kingdom through participating in God's work and seeing the growth that comes through giving.

TRANSFORMED

HEARTS · LIVES · COMMUNITIES

Your Capital Campaign Pledge
over and above annual generosity
St. Luke's United Methodist Church

\$ PLEDGE

Preferred pledge fulfillment schedule:
 \$ _____ Monthly for 36 Months
 \$ _____ Yearly for 3 Years
 \$ _____ As a one-time gift

Note: This commitment is a statement of intent and may be changed as your circumstances change.

Giving options (select one)

I plan to fulfill my pledge by:

Cash or Check
 ACH
 IRA (for age 70½+)

Debit/Credit Card
 Appreciated Stock

Please consider gifting through ACH.

NAME on account/card _____ PHONE _____

ROUTING NUMBER _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

Checking
 Savings

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____ CSV _____ ZIP CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

See reverse side for more information. ▶

You will receive your pledge card in the mail the week of May 10th.

I'm not going to offer God, my God, sacrifices that are no sacrifice.

—2 Samuel 24:24b The Message

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

We are a year late. The capital campaign that we agreed to chair was supposed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of St. Luke's. We were happy to celebrate that milestone, as every other milestone of our marriage has been associated with the church. We met here. We married here. Our children were confirmed here. Our volunteer service has centered here.

Then came the pandemic. We could not envision asking for your sacrificial giving at a time of such uncertainty and fear. So, with you, we went underground. The St. Luke's staff was undeterred, however. While we hunkered down, they pivoted to an on-line presence that delivered everything we needed—except hugs.

Although we are not completely out of the pandemic, many of us are beginning to emerge. We blink in the light as if readjusting to the sun. We know that we are alive, but are we OK? Surprisingly, many of us are. Changed forever, perhaps, but OK. Even those of us who have lost loved ones or businesses due to the pandemic or the passage of time are, surprisingly, OK. Glory be to God.

Now, it seems not only feasible, but necessary, to call on your sacrificial giving in response to God's grace. The capital campaign, with its life-changing elements, gives all of us working together the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, especially for those who have been not so fortunate. This is especially true for the Gethsemane Community Center, which will



leverage our St. Luke's Children's and Student Ministries with the work of other non-profits in the neighborhood. We also celebrate the Woodshop, which has served so many for so many years and, as updated, will present the opportunity to introduce more community members to the joy of creating for others. Last, but not least, the capital campaign will allow us to retire a debt and spiff up the Westheimer campus.

Please begin the following prayer journal on May 17th, completing it before committing to this campaign. You will receive a pledge card around May 10th. We look forward to working with you to make realities of these treasured dreams, burnishing our legacy as a beacon church.

Love in Christ,

Martha & Bruce K. Jameson

ON MONDAY, MAY 17, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AS A
CONGREGATION TO BEGIN OUR SIX-DAY PRAYER JOURNAL!

Prayer JOURNAL

We have participated in our church-wide study.

We have heard and considered the sermon series.

We have read about each of the Transformed projects.

Now it's time to pray and reflect on the ways God desires to transform our hearts and our lives, and then to use us to transform our community.

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

—Jeremiah 29:7



DAY 1: Proclaim and Enact

Monday, May 17

Read Hebrews 13:15-16

The world is undeniably broken. People go hungry, don't have access to shelter, get lost in education systems, and the list goes on. What are we to do? As the church, we embody God's presence and serve as those who not only proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, but also enact the good news through tangible compassion and generosity, meeting people's immediate needs so that they can see God more clearly and encounter God's goodness. God equips us to become agents of real change for people, transforming their hearts, their lives, and their communities.

Hearts - How has God equipped you to be an agent of transformation? As you think of the ways, offer a prayer of gratitude, thanking God for these good gifts.

Lives - How have you seen God's life-transforming work accomplished through other people? Ask God to show you how to be a vessel for change in another person's life.

Communities - How do you envision the church community's work within the broader community? Pray for the church and its commitment to shine its light of compassion, generosity, and justice in the community.

Loving God, You call us as a Christian community to offer a sacrifice that is pleasing to you, asking us not only to verbally share the good news of your Son, but also to offer compassion that leads to generosity, generosity that leads to justice, and justice that leads to hope. May we offer "a continual sacrifice of praise to God." Help us to joyfully embrace this good sacrifice so that the world might know your unending love. Amen.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
—Hebrews 13:16

DAY 2: Building with Heart

Tuesday, May 18

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Throughout time, the church has constantly built upon previous generations' foundations. As the builders of this present generation, we are called to choose with care how to build upon the legacy we have received from those who came before us. The brick-and-mortar of the church contains within it a legacy of Christ's love passed down from generation to generation. This is why we allot physical space for ministry. These spaces are stamps of God's work and are vessels for real life-change. The church and its buildings are not just buildings; the transformation that happens within them is immeasurable.

Hearts - How have the physical spaces of the church made a difference for you and your family? Offer a prayer of gratitude for the ways you've experienced transformation inside this building.

Lives - Take time to imagine how lives will be changed by the places we will build. Pray for the people who will gather in these spaces, that they might experience the love of God.

Communities - Envision the impact our building projects will have on the Sharpstown and Gulfton neighborhoods. Pray for the community to experience authentic flourishing.

Dear God, There is no firmer foundation upon which to build than that of Christ. We are grateful to belong to a church with a legacy of building for the future, a church that builds not just with hammers and nails but with an eye toward changing hearts, lives, and communities for your name's sake. Make your presence known in the spaces we build so that people will know that you are the God who desires human flourishing. Amen.



For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.
—1 Corinthians 3:11



DAY 3: Influencing the Next Generation

Wednesday, May 19

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

God calls us to a life of influencing others, which means our words and our efforts matter. The church makes a concerted effort in creating environments where people can experience first-hand the good news and love of Jesus Christ. While the pews on any given Sunday morning are perhaps the most obvious location for the sharing of God’s transforming love, the church launches programs like Small Steps and the PX Project that go far beyond the walls of the sanctuary. These programs bring our influence and investment to the next generation and afford us the opportunity to demonstrate that they are loved by God. We get to model the life that Christ models for all of us!

Hearts - When you were growing up, who modeled Christ’s love for you? Lift these people up to God in gratitude, thanking God for the ways they influenced your faith.

Lives - How can you be involved in the education and workforce development ministries launched and supported by St. Luke’s? Pray for God to show you the ways you can be a vessel of influence in another person’s life.

Communities - How do you see the church gaining influence in the community over time? Pray for our reach to extend beyond our imagination so that God will be intimately known to future generations.

God, Your love stands the test of time. We thank you for all who came before us and embodied your acts of love and mercy and emboldened us to do the same. Help us to be living examples of your goodness. Amen.

You yourselves have been taught
by God to love one another...
—1 Thessalonians 4:9b

DAY 4: The Future of the Community

Thursday, May 20

Read 1 Chronicles 28:20

God calls the church to do meaningful work, but it isn’t always glamorous. It is often the practical, day-to-day work of maintaining and supporting the existing ministries and programs that are vital to the mission of the church. In other words, we are called to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our collective call is to finish the work that was started long ago, knowing that we will ultimately invest in that which will outlive us. The church lives on, generation to generation, and we have the opportunity to take the reins, put our hand to the plow, and press on toward finishing well until Christ comes in glory.

Hearts - What has God entrusted to you? Offer thanks to God for these gifts.

Lives - How is God calling you to be a steward of what you’ve been entrusted? Pray for wisdom in the savvy investing of your resources. Where does the greatest need intersect with your desire to impact the future?

Communities - Try to envision the future of St. Luke’s. What do you hope for this “beacon church” in the many years to come? Pray for our vision to transform the city with the love of Jesus.

God, Every good and perfect gift comes from you. Help us to take ownership of that which you’ve entrusted to us, not for our mere enjoyment but for the sake of continuing the work of building up your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.



God will not fail you or forsake
you, until all the work for the
service of the house of the Lord
is finished.

—1 Chronicles 28:20b



But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
 Do not fear, for I have
 redeemed you;
 I have called you by name,
 you are mine.
 —Isaiah 43:1b

DAY 5: The Time Is Now

Friday, May 21

Read Isaiah 43:1-2

These are extraordinary times. After a year of shutdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a capital campaign may seem unusual. But the most-telling indication of a healthy church is found in its resilience. We are resilient people who have been transformed by Christ’s love through others’ compassion and generosity. Now it’s our turn. We look within our hearts, listen to the voices of those who have gone before us, and begin to invest in the foundation set by Christ.

Hearts - How have you seen resilience at work in your life and in your church? Say a prayer of gratitude for God’s presence and activity in the midst of trying times.

Lives - How do you see resilience taking shape in the lives of others? Ask God how you can show up for others the way Christ shows up for all of us.

Communities - How has God called you to invest in the Transformed Capital Campaign? Pray for meaningful transformation to take place through our collective compassion and generosity.

Dear God, Through our compassion and generosity, we bless your name. Help us to joyfully build upon the foundation your Son set for us. We pray that your good news would be made known through the projects of this capital campaign so that others may flourish while praising your holy name. Amen.

DAY 6: Prayers for the Projects

Saturday, May 22

Add your prayer in the space provided.

God of kinship, you say the City of God will be a place for the nations to gather, and the front door will never shut. The City of God will be a community center! So, I pray for the Community Center at Gethsemane, that it would be a glimpse of eternity, a place of belonging for young people, and where hope has an address. In the name of Christ. Amen.
 —Rev. David Horton, TEACHING PASTOR GETHSEMANE CHURCH

God of Wonder, Thank you for the wondrous gift of Small Steps Nurturing Center. We pray that these children experience your wonder and glory each day. And, Lord, transform our hearts so that we can be a vessel of yours in the lives of these children and families. We love you! Amen.
 —Julie Ellerbrock, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Heavenly Father, In the midst of a time when much is uncertain, you gifted us the joy of the PX Project fellows. They have taught us more than we have taught them, and we are so grateful for who they are. Guide us as we build a safe place for each other. May we continue to grow alongside one another, forging new paths and building deep connections that center around your love for all of us. In your Son’s name we pray. Amen.
 —Meredith Davis, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Thank you, Lord, for the gift that is St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. Guide us to be fiscally responsible, forward thinking stewards of our church grounds and buildings. In so doing, we honor your gifts and your glory. Amen.
 —Anne Culver, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Gracious God, we thank you for those, 75 years ago, who had a vision of a church that would be a beacon of light to a growing city. We pray that our work each day would advance that vision, and that our beloved spire would be renewed as a symbol for our city of the light and love of Jesus Christ in both good times and those of challenge. Amen.
 —Dr. Tom Pace, SENIOR PASTOR





St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 22013

Houston, Texas 77227-2013

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 6472
HOUSTON, TX

Visit StLukesTransformed.org for sermons, videos and more information.

Important Dates

**Church-wide study: "A Life Transformed"
Begins April 19**

**Transformed Campaign Launch
April 25**

**Pledge cards in-home the week of
May 10**

**Prayer Journal Starts
May 17**

**Commitment Sunday
May 23**

**Celebration Sunday
June 6**

TRANSFORMED! SERMON SERIES

Transformed! What can St. Luke's do to be a catalyst for transformation in the city in which we live? The Scripture calls us to, "seek the welfare of the city in which I have sent you." We are all about making a difference. Come find out how you can be a part of it.

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| April 18 | Seek the Welfare |
| April 25 | Return on Investment |
| May 2 | Communities of Kinship |
| May 9 | Follow the Children |
| May 16 | The City on a Hill |
| May 23 | Pentecost: Their Own Language |