



The Lutheran Church of Times Square
308 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036

"Cooling God's House Together"

Blessings to you!

June 1, 2024

The warmth of summer has begun to embrace us. Summer, with its sunshine and longer days, offers us numerous opportunities for worship, fellowship, and community engagement. Yet, it also brings a challenge that many of us have felt every summer—our beloved sanctuary becomes too hot, making it difficult for us to fully engage in worship.



The council routinely canceled services during August from the turn of the century until the late 1930s because of the heat. In the summers of the 1960s the congregation would head downstairs to the air-conditioned basement! Nowadays we shift our worship to the air-conditioned lounge when the temperature in the sanctuary is unbearable. Some worshippers even wear shorts to be comfortable. The summers will continue to get warmer, due to climate change.

After considering the available options, our leadership has decided to embark on a cooling project to enhance our worship experience: the installation of a new air conditioning system in our sanctuary. This improvement will not only ensure comfort during our services but also create a welcoming environment for summer visitors. It will take some stress off our organ, reducing the tunings, since temperature swings will be lessened. It will also be more comfortable for other summer events, including funerals, weddings or concerts.



Our Vision

This air conditioning project is more than a simple upgrade. It is a commitment to making our church a more comfortable and inviting place for everyone to pray, to sing, to listen and to receive holy communion.

The system we have selected is to be installed against the west sanctuary wall underneath the arches. This location will cool the areas where worshippers and worship leaders sit. The two units may be partly visible in certain pews. Electrical cabling will be hidden. No stencils will be affected.

We aim to install two ductless split system wall-mounted units, providing 60,000 BTU/hour of silent cooling. The two outdoor compressors will be fixed on the flat sub-roof between the lounge and the church. We have selected the contractor who did a very similar installation at St John-St Matthew-Lutheran Church in Park Slope, which they are happy with.

The total cost for this project, including the purchase, installation, and necessary electrical upgrades, is estimated to be \$20,000. Achieving this goal is possible through the combined efforts and generosity of our congregation and supporters like you.

Do you remember that in 2018 we raised funds for the 4th floor parsonage renovation and a better sound system? In 2019 we beautified the narthex and also the sanctuary nave. In 2020 & 2021 we restored the entire organ for its first time and the entire undercroft (basement) area was remodeled. In 2022 we restored the sanctuary balcony. In 2023 we updated the basement kitchen, the lounge and lounge kitchen, including new flooring and electrical. This summer we aim to install air conditioning.

How You Can Help



You're invited to make this vision a reality. I'd like to see you in worship as often as possible this summer, in person or online. The summer is a good time to think through longer term decisions, reassess your values and re-ignite your faith. I am planning a summer preaching series. You're invited to contribute a Sunday musical solo selection. We have fixed a fun summer social calendar, in your e-newsletter, including a rooftop picnic, bowling, retreat, baseball and a Roosevelt Island guided tour. Our Soup Kitchen has expanded into providing groceries for our guests on some serving days. Come and volunteer!

Let's all join together and meet this \$20,000 goal quickly. Everyone matters, including you. Please think about what you can give. The finance committee will track our progress and report back to you. Please indicate Summer Campaign - Air Conditioning on the memo line or the giving category. You can also use our secure online giving portal using the QR code.



Our Promise: Stewardship

We are committed to being good stewards of your generous gifts, ensuring that our sanctuary becomes a cooler place of worship. The sooner the funds are raised, the sooner we can begin installation this summer!

Together in Faith

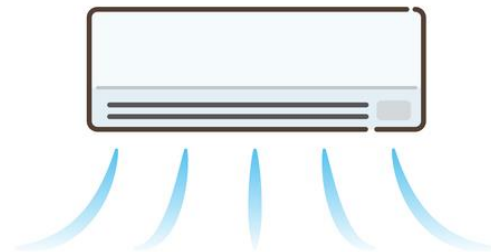
We thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support. With your help, we can make our sanctuary that is comfortable year round, so that more people can experience the love and grace of God. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

On behalf of the church council and our 2024 president Katie Luekens Chan Chee, I thank you for your commitment to Saint Luke's, for your sharing of your resources for God's mission here, and for your consideration of this special initiative and opportunity. I am enthusiastic about Saint Luke's and am counting on every household to participate at a level that works for you. Will you join me in this?

Faithfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arden Strasser".

Pastor Arden C. Strasser



"Let's Keep Our Sanctuary Cool and Holy"