

A capital campaign
for Saint Luke's Parish



RENEW &
reimagine

From Generation to Generation

*Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine: Glory to him from generation to
generation in the Church, and in Christ
Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.* —Ephesians 3:20,21



A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Did you know we have a big birthday coming up? In 2030, we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of our beloved Saint Luke's Parish.

In August 1855, a small group of faithful Episcopalians met across the street to charter a new Episcopal church in Darien. The cornerstone was laid the next year, and the church opened for services in August 1857. From that moment until this one, our church has stood at the corner of Ring's End and the Post Road, its steeple pointing our eyes up toward heaven and its doors open wide.

After 175 years of faithful ministry, our church fabric is in need of renewal. We are a vibrant and growing community, full of energy and hope for the future—yet our buildings are showing their age. After much prayer and parish-wide conversation, we believe it is time to act.

Your Vestry has authorized a \$9 million capital campaign to address the most pressing needs identified through discernment and last fall's feasibility study, with a \$10.5 million stretch goal. Together, we will renew our church, address critical safety issues, and grow the endowment which helps us care for our historic campus.

Previous generations built not only this beautiful church, but also the vibrant congregation that fills it and spills out into the world to share God's goodness, mercy, and love. It's our turn to hand that gift to the generations who will follow after us.

By harnessing our collective faith and generosity, we will ensure that Saint Luke's is ready to Grow, Love, and Serve in Jesus' name for the next 175 years of ministry.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ryan".

THE REV. RYAN FLEENOR
Rector



A LETTER FROM THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Dear Saint Luke's Family,

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to raise our families in this deeply spiritual and loving Saint Luke's community. Our children were baptized and confirmed here, attended service trips, and participated in youth programs. We have served in various ministries, including: Altar Guild, MOMSnext, Bible Study, Men's Group, Community Supper, and Vestry. We know that this is true for so many of you. So it is with deep gratitude and a shared sense of purpose that we serve as your co-chairs for this transformational moment in the life of our church.

Our capital campaign came about with the same shared sense of purpose and commitment from so many of us. Multiple discernment meetings and a comprehensive feasibility study allowed all of us to participate—this is OUR campaign, and it is a reflection of what we as a church deem to be the top priorities in the life of our parish.

Scripture reminds us to “Be strong and do the work, for the Lord God has chosen you to build his house as a sanctuary. Be strong and do it.” (1 Chronicles 28:10). We too are called to strengthen our spiritual home for today and for the future of Saint Luke's—for today's generation and the generations to come.

Along with our Vestry and clergy, we have committed to support this campaign to the best of our ability. We are now asking you to join us—please consider making a gift that is meaningful to you and know that generations to come will benefit from your generosity.

With gratitude and faith,

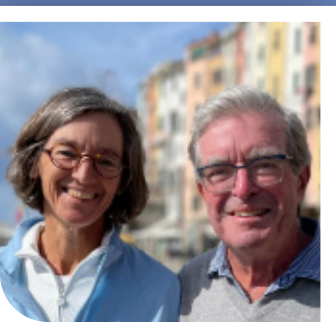
Wendy Dan

WENDY & DAN MOORE
Campaign Co-Chairs

Tiffany Brian

TIFFANY & BRIAN VAN ELSLANDER
Campaign Co-Chairs

Recognizing their dedicated service to Saint Luke's Parish, we are delighted that Susan and George Wyper have agreed to be Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs.



1 SAVE THE TOWER & RESTORE THE BELLS

(\$2.75 million)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

—PSALM 121:1

Saint Luke's historic steeple and bell tower are at risk of structural failure in the near future. Water infiltration has significantly deteriorated the mortar in the stone base as well as the wood structure supporting the copper steeple. Emergency repairs in the summer of 2024 have averted imminent danger and bought us time, but a comprehensive solution is needed.

The time has come for a complete restoration and reconstruction of the steeple. We plan to:

- Repoint mortar in the stone tower.
- Reinforce the structure supporting the bells.
- Restore the historic bells and reconstruct the mechanism for playing them.
- Rebuild the steeple's wood framing.
- Replace the copper roofing to protect the structure.

Our steeple and bells are not simply historical artifacts; they are integral parts of our mission. The steeple points our eyes heavenward, and our bells call us to worship and service each week. Together, they are a witness to our presence as a beacon of hope in the Darien community. Restoring them is essential for the future.



1855

Saint Luke's is founded. Church construction is completed in 1857.

1875

Thanks to the generosity of Benjamin Fitch, a chime of nine bells, cast in bronze, is added to the tower.

1952

In response to considerable population growth in town, Saint Luke's expands. The Education Building is built and the church doubles in size. The Narthex and Cloister are completed later.

1982

The Chancel is renovated to create a more flexible liturgical space, in keeping with the reforms of the new 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

1998

Saint Luke's completes a capital campaign that includes renovation and expansion of the parish offices.

2008

Despite the global financial crisis, a capital campaign raises sufficient funds to build The Anderson Youth & Community Center, two clergy residences, and a new choir room. In addition, the church exterior is repointed, a digital organ is installed, and improvements are made to Franklin House.

2022

The Dream Big Committee is formed to assess "What are the pressing issues and opportunities facing our parish?" and prepare for a future of continued growth and vitality.





2 RESTORE THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH

(\$2.7 million)

How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

—GENESIS 28:17

Worship is the heartbeat of our common life and the inspiration for all we do. It has been 40 years since the interior of the church was last renovated. Now is the time to invest in our future and to create the most inspiring sacred space possible. We plan to:

- Renovate the Chancel area of the church, including replacing the damaged parquet floor and commissioning new furniture to make the space more beautiful, flexible, and accessible to all.
- Renovate the Narthex to make it a more welcoming space, and renovate the Sacristy—used by the clergy, Altar Guild, and Flower Guild.
- Improve the lighting and sound systems, install new security measures, and upgrade fire suppression systems.
- Restore damaged pews; replace the carpet with a new, beautiful floor; repair water-damaged plaster; and repaint the church.

3 EXTEND THE LIFE OF OUR DIGITAL ORGAN

(\$300,000)

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

—PSALM 150:6

Prior to the last capital campaign in 2008, there was a plan to install a new pipe organ. Instead, a generous parishioner donated the existing electronic organ. That means the pipes you see in the sanctuary are merely decorative; the sound you hear is produced by speakers behind the pipes. The current electronic organ has served our needs well, but it has begun to fail and we need to replace it soon.

A first step is to repair and upgrade our current digital instrument by updating software, replacing hardware in the playing console, and investing in new speakers. This will extend its functional life by another 20–30 years.



4 MAKE THE CAMPUS SAFE & ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

(\$1.9 million)

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

—ISAIAH 56:7

Our beautiful campus poses real challenges for those with accessibility needs, from wheelchairs to strollers. We must renew our pledge to be welcoming to all and improve access to all who use our campus, from parishioners on Sunday to School families and Person-to-Person clients throughout the week. We plan to:

- Build a ramp from the lower parking lot up to the Cloister, expanding access to the parking spaces available to those with mobility needs.
- Create a new entrance to the Narthex on the north side of the building, allowing a new way to access the principal entrance to the church without the barrier of stairs.
- Install a new restroom in the Narthex, allowing those who attend services in the church to access the restroom without climbing stairs.
- Enhance safety and improve nighttime visibility with new site lighting and sidewalks in the lower parking lot.



5 RELOCATE THE PLAYGROUND

(\$250,000)

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me." —MARK 9:37

Our playground is used nearly seven days a week, both by Children's Ministries and our thriving Saint Luke's Parish School. Each day, students need to cross a busy parking lot with considerable traffic in order to access outdoor play space.

This campaign will allow the playground to move to a new, safer location, immediately adjacent to the Education Building. No longer will our students cross an active driveway to reach the playground.

Saint Luke's and our Parish School will work together to ensure that our campus remains a safe place for our youngest children to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.



7 PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

(\$100,000)

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

—LUKE 14:28

High cost estimates and zoning challenges—particularly with regard to stormwater management—meant that we needed to postpone several hoped-for projects, including a third Clergy House, the Person-to-Person Food Pantry, and Site Plan improvements, such as the green space and revised traffic flow pattern. This campaign sets aside funds to continue the necessary work with architects and engineers to plan for future projects.

6 GROW SAINT LUKE'S ENDOWMENT

(\$1 million)

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it.

—1 CORINTHIANS 3:10

Imagine reducing the burden our beautiful and historic buildings put on future generations. Growing the endowment is an essential part of our parish's long-term financial sustainability.

The annual disbursement from the Parish Endowment (fixed at 5%) is used to fund capital repairs. Each year, the Buildings & Grounds Committee evaluates how to spend those funds, often deferring projects since the income available is insufficient to cover the deferred maintenance needs.

Growing the endowment will allow us to better steward our buildings into the future, so they will better serve our mission and ensure that future generations are not burdened with the cost of building maintenance.





Challenge Goal: Additional \$1.5 million

Once our Primary Goal of \$9 million is fully funded, the Vestry has issued a challenge to the congregation to fund a challenge goal of \$10.5 million to allow for the installation of a new, custom-built pipe organ by Juget-Sinclair Organ builders in Montreal, Quebec. This once-in-a-century investment in Saint Luke’s future is important for three reasons.

A new pipe organ will better support congregational singing by providing a warmer, and more enveloping sound throughout the Nave. There is also a qualitative difference between live sounds and those reproduced by speakers.

Second, a pipe organ is a better long-term investment. Digital instruments, while initially less expensive to install, need to be updated and replaced regularly. Traditional pipe organs can last for centuries, if properly cared for.

Finally, a custom-built instrument will serve a growing music program to better accompany the choir, provide greater versatility in the repertoire of music that can be played, and attract world-class musicians and singers to perform at Saint Luke’s. This will expand our community outreach through the Friends of Music concert series.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Gifts of every size are essential for a campaign of this size to succeed. The following table shows the number and size of gifts needed to reach our \$10.5 million challenge goal.

Please prayerfully consider the role you might play in this important effort.

In addition to your campaign pledge, you may also wish to consider making a planned gift such as a gift of appreciated stock or property. To learn more about planned giving or to pledge securely online, visit the church website: www.saintlukesdarien.org

No matter how you help: Thank you.

Size of Gift	Number of Gifts	Cumulative Total	Monthly (Over 3 Years)
\$2,000,000	1	\$2,000,000	\$55,555
\$1,000,000	1	\$3,000,000	\$27,778
\$750,000	2	\$4,500,000	\$20,833
\$500,000	2	\$5,500,000	\$13,889
\$250,000	3	\$6,250,000	\$6,944
\$200,000	5	\$7,250,000	\$5,555
\$150,000	6	\$8,150,000	\$4,167
\$100,000	7	\$8,850,000	\$2,778
\$60,000	8	\$9,330,000	\$1,667
\$30,000	10	\$9,630,000	\$833
\$15,000	15	\$9,855,00	\$417
\$10,000	20	\$10,005,000	\$278
\$5,000	40	\$10,205,000	\$139
\$3,000	60	\$10,385,000	\$83
\$1,000	100	\$10,485,000	\$28
Less than \$1,000	Many	Goal Achieved	Variable

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Gracious God, we humbly come before you, grateful for the rich history and many blessings you have bestowed upon our beloved Saint Luke's Parish. As we embark on a new chapter, we seek your guidance as we move forward in faith. Ignite the passion of each and every parishioner. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and lead us into the future you intend for us. Thank you for your unconditional love and abiding presence, day by day. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.



Saint Luke's Parish

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To learn more about the campaign or to pledge online, visit: www.saintlukesdarien.org