

You Are Important!

Your participation is crucial to this time of assessment.

Pray for wisdom to discern God's mission for First Lutheran

Gain Understanding about the goals at an Information Gathering.

Respond to the survey by April 30.

Members are encouraged to complete a short survey. Surveys will be made available at the Information Gatherings and online at www.firstlutherancr.org/renewing or scan this QR CODE.



Information Gatherings

Saturday, April 6 - Forum @ 6:00pm

Sunday April 7 - Forum @ 10:10am

Wednesday, April 10 - Forum @ 7:15pm

Thursday, April 11 - Forum for Keenagers @ 12:00pm

Sunday, April 14 - Forum for Families @ 10:10am

April 1 - 16 - Neighborhood Meetings @ 7:00pm

See schedule online or in the narthex and sign up.
www.firstlutherancr.org/renewing

First Lutheran Church, ELCA
1000 Third Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



www.firstlutherancr.org
(319) 365-1494

First Lutheran Church, ELCA
1000 Third Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Information Gatherings

Saturday, April 6 - Forum @ 6:00pm

Sunday April 7 - Forum @ 10:10am

Wednesday, April 10 - Forum @ 7:15pm

Thursday, April 11 - Forum for Keenagers @ 12:00pm

Sunday, April 14 - Forum for Families @ 10:10am

April 1 - 16 - Neighborhood Meetings @ 7:00pm



First Lutheran

discover more : **together**



Renewing for God's Mission: A Time for Assessment



Renewing for God's Mission

We accomplished a great goal renewing the sanctuary for worship. The sanctuary brings together the best of what is traditional and contemporary. The worship space is holy space for prayer, for singing, for the spoken word. We have extended the reach of First Lutheran through streaming services, so that people join us from across the county.

The work of renewing this place for God's Mission is not done. We continue to ask basic questions of God's purpose for us.

- + How shall we provide a warmth of welcome into the building that matches the warmth of the people of First Lutheran?
- + How shall we update spaces for children and youth that says "We are glad you have come!"
- + How shall we care for the building for the sake of God's mission, because First Lutheran matters here in the heart of the city?

The Church Council formed a building committee and they have worked with LOCUS Architecture and Rinderknecht Construction to develop preliminary designs for a new entry, welcome area, parking lot, and ministry spaces for children and youth, as well as addressing critical maintenance needs.

Renewing for God's Mission keeps our eyes focused on the bigger picture. God calls us forward to carry out God's mission of love for the world; not just for us, but for those yet to come. How can this place serve God's mission for the next generation? How shall we offer a welcome for those seeking a spiritual home in Christ?

Project Goals

Retire Debt is to make good on our pledge to finish paying for the sanctuary renewal. The \$545,000 debt is too large to mortgage without sacrificing staff and ministry.

Repair what needs to be repaired, so that the building continues to serve as a vital center for mission and service. The critical areas are the flat roof facing the medical clinic, 17 Heating/AC units, repairs to the bricks and mortar of the original 1911 building exterior, replace worn floor coverings, fresh paint, and refurbish our elevator.

Renew the building to serve God's mission of welcome for all.

Entry—Open Doors. Open Hearts. The goal is to create a new entry that leads people directly into the welcome area and sanctuary, so that the warmth and welcome of the building matches the warmth of the people inside. Update the parking lot to make it more safe, easier to park, and replace the crumbling asphalt surface.

Children and Youth—Creating a Great Place to Be. Update the 3rd floor with color and carpet that welcomes children and says this is a great place to be. Create a dynamic youth space by opening up the two main rooms and updating the spaces.

Reach Out with special projects that look beyond our site and make a difference in the world. Consider supporting our partner congregations of Samé Tanzania, and supporting a local ministry partner, such as Willis Dady, Homeless Shelters, or Wellington Heights Community Church.

Estimated Cost: \$3-3.5 million

A Time for Assessment

First Lutheran Church is partnering with *The James Company*, a faith-based capital campaign group that has served hundreds of congregations, to guide us through this *Time of Assessment*.

The process will allow us to assess our readiness for a capital campaign to fund our proposed objectives. **Feedback is central to this process** and will include opportunities for congregation members to become informed, complete a brief survey, and participate in a personal interview.

You are encouraged to attend an Information Gathering, whether a forum at church or a neighborhood member meeting. These presentations will provide updated information to what was shared at the Annual meeting. They are important times for feedback and conversation.

The *Time for Assessment* report will be presented to the congregation council at the conclusion of the process. The report will gauge our readiness for a campaign and our willingness to support financially these critical goals to serve God's mission for the future.

If there is a positive response to the assessment, the council will call a meeting of the congregation to approve a capital campaign for the fall of 2024. **Funds will not be solicited during this time for assessment.**