

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sustaining
Grace**



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

God's Call for Us

The people of St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN, children of God one and all, are called to live out the Gospel through welcoming, worshiping, and witnessing to our neighbors throughout God's creation.

In 2023, the congregation voted to introduce a capital campaign to raise significant financial resources to support a variety of initiatives that focus on sustainability. In January 2024, the St. John's Congregational Council voted to set a goal of \$750,000 over a three-year period to help ensure that we are doing everything we can to make our faith community as welcoming and sustainable as we are able. This decision was affirmed at the annual meeting of the congregation.

When we designed and built St. John's Hall, we envisioned thousands of our neighbors using our space each year. When previous generations invested in our sanctuary, they envisioned a place where all who entered could feel God's presence.

As a result of our faith and these successful campaigns, thousands of residents come through our space each year to worship, receive a hot meal, participate in community meetings and musical events, and so much more. For us to continue to fulfill our mission, it is imperative for us find new ways to protect our planet, while making our space more welcoming and affordable for more people to utilize it.

We are called to serve our neighbors in so many ways. That is why this capital campaign will not only create a lasting legacy through enhancing our sustainability, but also through benevolence initiatives that will touch the lives of our neighbors throughout the community.

Overview

Jesus called us to care for those around us, saying, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.”

St. John’s Lutheran Church is a community created, renewed, and empowered by God’s grace, and called to extend Christ’s welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to all people. While we do not always agree on all issues and ideas, we choose to walk and grow in faith together. We believe that God creates diversity, loving and welcoming each and every one of us.

Today, we have the chance to enhance and upgrade our facilities to leverage opportunities to go green, reducing our environmental impact and lowering our operating expenses. Together, we will prepare our facilities to ensure that we can sustain our mission for years to come, in ways that honor our past while preparing for the future with hope and thoughtfulness.

Sustaining Grace

Our church holds an important position in our communities – Northfield, southeastern Minnesota, in our nation, and in the world. We welcome people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance,

This campaign will help ensure that all of us can work together to address the plethora of needs ... physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual.



educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background. We have sought to lead, not through flashy superficial programs, but by being quiet and steady exemplars of our faith. The goals of this campaign reflect our shared commitments and common beliefs.

While God renews our spiritual grace, we are called to sustain our physical presence in the world, and to do so in a way that honors God's creation. Our building is in need of repair and maintenance, our world is in need care and restoration. This campaign will help



ensure that all of us can work together to address the plethora of needs ... physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual.

Now is the time to plan for a greener building that reduces our energy costs and our carbon footprint. In

preparation for this sustainability campaign, a number of foundational tasks have been completed, including an engineering assessment of our building, extensive research into energy-saving opportunities, and examinations of new government programs designed to assist smaller organizations like St. John's in becoming more energy efficient and better global citizens.

Additionally, a tithe has been included for benevolence beyond our building. Each of the campaign initiatives enable us to lead by example while taking tangible steps to improve our contributions to the world around us.

Sustaining our environment and budgets

We are investing in our facilities in a manner that not only improves the world around us, but also makes us more energy-efficient and cost-conscious in fulfilling and expanding our mission. Congregational-approved initiatives include:

- Installation of a solar array
- Replacement of heat exchangers for St. John's Hall
- New energy-efficient, induction kitchen range
- New energy-efficient kitchen dishwasher
- Air handling improvements
- On-demand water heaters

Sustaining our safety

While not glamorous, there are critical needs on the church grounds that require attention to ensure a welcoming environment that safeguards our congregants and guests. The major items that need attention include:

- External stair repair
- Improved security systems
- Parking lot replacement and curb repair
- Tuckpointing
- New flooring in Sunday school rooms



Sustaining our community

St. John's has a long history of congregational benevolence to spread the Gospel through word and deed not only within our walls but throughout our community and throughout our world.

This campaign is committed to furthering our impact in strong and meaningful ways that are aligned with our sustainability initiatives:

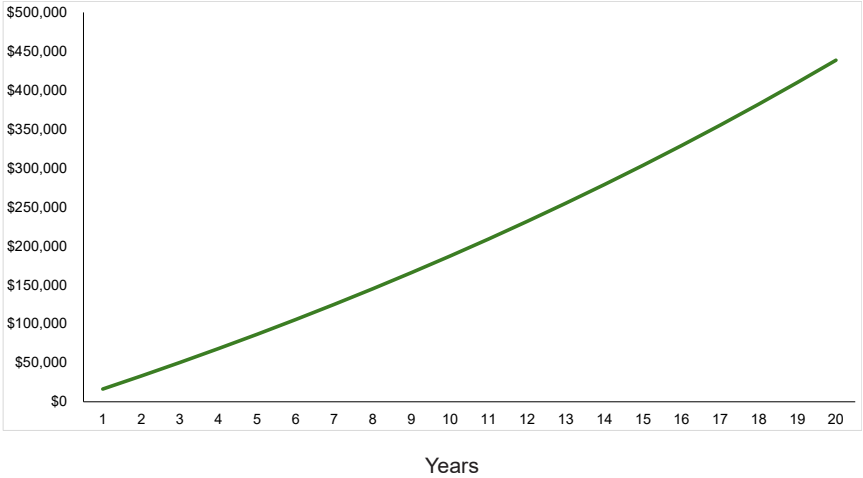
- Extending our benevolence throughout Northfield
- Developing the spirit of benevolence in youth and teens
- Selecting benevolence projects that foster environmental stewardship

We experienced significant success in 2023 with the completion of an energy audit and the installation of on-demand water heaters. With your help and participation, St. John's will be well-positioned for continued success in 2024 and beyond.

Making an Impact

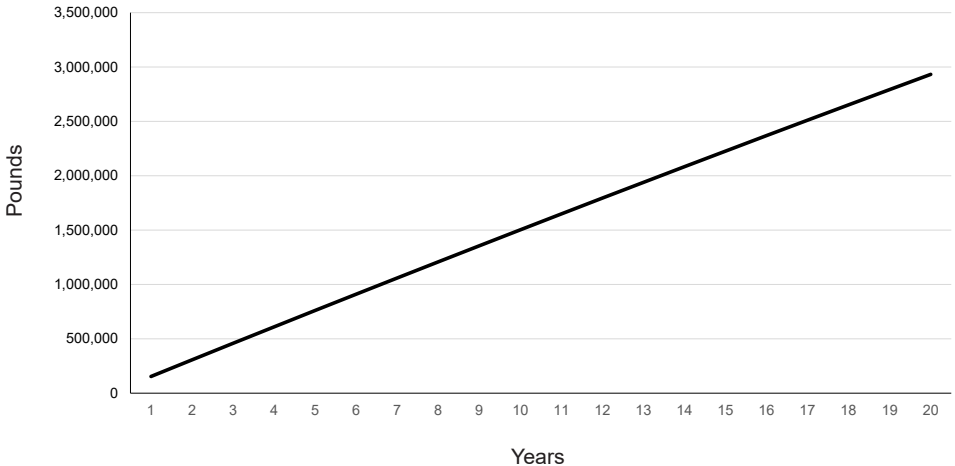
Cumulative Dollars Saved (20-year Projection)

Assumes a 3% rate of inflation in electrical rates and the most-conservative estimates for energy generation. The project will result in immediate operational cost savings.



Carbon Savings in Pounds (20-year Projection)

The collective improvements realized by utilizing more efficient water heaters and air exchangers, in addition to the offsets produced by the solar array.



“... if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”

– Isaiah 58:10-12



*We all need to do our part to
care for the future of God's creation.
Thank you for supporting the
Sustaining Grace campaign!*



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St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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