



Capital Campaign News

St. Luke Lutheran Church

March 2026

Issue 6



Our new outdoor space, OASIS, opened for congregation use in November 2025. Many thanks to the OASIS team members, who supervised the construction project and helped navigate the City of Portland permitting process. New double doors provide an easy entry point to the outdoors through the Fellowship Hall. Stepping logs and balance planks, a playhouse, and an A-frame climber, built by Ryan Carpenter, provide lots of opportunity for play. Trucks and tractors for the gravel playbox are housed in a new toybox. Children of St. Luke are enjoying this space so much already!



More structures (slide, activity panels alongside the gravel, a nature kitchen and a bench around the ash tree) are coming this spring. Beautiful planter boxes along the church wall and new patio furniture will complete the project. Our hearts are warmed to see so many members contribute to creating this beautiful multi-generational space that all of us can use and enjoy. As spring approaches, we hope adult groups will take advantage of this wonderful space for gatherings.

Any input, thoughts, comments, and ideas are always welcome. Contact the church office at (503) 246-2325



Please mark your calendar for our **Grand Opening!**

Sunday, May 17,
11:30 AM-1:00 PM.



Church Mortgages Paydown

Wonderful News! St. Luke Treasurer Dave Ramus announced at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026, that the church mortgage is now fully paid off. The mortgage balance had been \$316,876 on November 1, 2025, at a 6.5% interest rate. This frees \$40,836 in annual mortgage payments from the church operating budget to apply to other ministries at St. Luke. The 2026 budget includes only one mortgage payment of \$3,403. The savings will be \$37,433 in 2026. Of this savings, \$20,000 was allocated to Social Concerns and the remainder was used to balance the other General Fund operating expenses. Your generous donations to the LIFT campaign made the mortgage pay-off possible.

A mortgage burning ceremony is planned for May 17, 2026, the same day as the OASIS celebration.

Also announced, the Vermont House mortgage has been paid down by approximately \$46,000, leaving a balance of about \$215,000. Currently at 3.7%, this mortgage rate will adjust to approximately 5.9% on February 1, 2027. We will continue to pay this mortgage down as LIFT donations are received until it is paid off later this year.



A decision is pending on the timing for paying off the Commercial Property Mortgage (also at a 3.7% variable interest rate that will adjust to 5.9% in 2027). Replacement of windows and doors to weatherize the church building may come first, depending on our best calculation of costs and benefits between the two projects

MORTGAGE



For more detailed information on the LIFT projects and timelines, we encourage you to visit the LIFT section of the church website: [LIFT - St. Luke Lutheran Church - Portland, Oregon.](#)

LIFT HVAC Project

The HVAC design was finalized and approved by St. Luke the end of December 2025. The permit was approved in January. Work began February 9, and is scheduled to be completed June 30, 2026, in time for summer. HVAC work in the church's lower-level is expected to be completed in early March, followed by the offices and sanctuary to be completed in the 3rd week of March. The church's upper-level work will commence after Easter till the end of April. Work will continue in May, followed by start-up and testing in June. Then the church building will have a newly installed heating and cooling system to replace our existing heating system. We will update the congregation as progress is made. During the construction phase, the goal is to minimize disruption at St. Luke.



Thanks to Ryan Carpenter for keeping this project moving.

LIFT Elevator Modernization

Required parts for our elevator upgrade have been fabricated and have arrived in Portland by rail so installation is Starting February 18. Necessary electrical work and installation of the new parts should be completed before the end of March. When the work is done, we will have an elevator that meets current codes and should operate safely for many more years. During the construction period, the elevator will be out of commission and not usable. On Sundays, we are asking those who do NOT have mobility issues to park in the lower level to free up parking spots in front of the church for those that would normally use the elevator. The elevator will be out of service for close to a month while the work is in process, so we will update the congregation as work progresses

Thanks to Dan Gott for keeping this project on track.



LIFT Project Timeline

Jul-25 Aug-25 Sep-25 Oct-25 Nov-25 Dec-25 Jan-26 Feb-26 Mar-26 Apr-26 May-26 Jun-26 Jul-26 Aug-26 Sep-26

Community Table New Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer (Completed Sept 1, 2023)

Lower Shalom
Purchase
Celebration

Remodeling
Equip.



OASIS (Outdoor Activity Social Intergenerational Space) Opened Nov 16, 2025. Celebrate May 17, 2026

Permits
Contract
Construction
Open Congregation
Tables, Chairs, Equip.
Celebration

Go Ahead

Signed

Demolition, New Concrete, Wall, Turf



Approved

Play Structures, Tables, Chairs, Benches



Elevator Upgrade - Completion March 30, 2026

Contract
Parts
Construction
Electrical
Celebration

Signed

Shipped

Delivered
Installation
Controls Installed



HVAC - Completion June 30, 2026

Contract
Design
Permitting
Construction
System
Old Heating
Celebration

Signed

Created

Approved

Received
Installation

Testing
Removal

Mortgage Paydown
Church
Vermont House
Commercial Property

Completed

In progress

