

# St. Luke's Town Hall

## MISSION STATEMENT

At St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we are an open community of Christians helping people find and give hope through Jesus Christ - regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, or socioeconomic background.

## REACHING BEYOND

We envision St. Luke's as an explosive force of God's radical, just, and inclusive love, reaching hundreds of thousands of people in Indianapolis and beyond who have given up on church or the possibility of a God who cares about them.

>>>> 5 years (2027)

### Multi-site Launch

Launch one digital and one physical campus

### City Impact

Provide 500,000 diapers and serve 10,000 people

### Inclusive Expansion

Increase worship attendance by 10% and better represent our surrounding community

### Equipping Disciples

Experience a 30% increase in group participation and an additional 25% increase in serving

>>>> 2.5 years (2024)

## YOU BELONG

Between now and July of 2022 we will re-engage over 6,000 members and current attenders and reach out to 1,000 new people with the radical love of Jesus. We want everyone to know that they belong at St. Luke's and that God has a purpose for them.

>>>> 10 months  
(October 2021-July 2022)

### 5.3-1 Initiative

In Lent we will pray for 10,000 people, invite 6,000 people, and bring 2,000 people to an Easer service

### Town Halls

We will host events to get feedback on our vision and provide next steps

### Lent Invite Events

We will use Eggstravaganza and Gospel Concert as an introduction to St. Luke's

### Building Feasibility Study

We are assessing the needs of our 86th St. facility and what is needed to provide vibrant ministry

>>>> 90 days  
(April 2022)

## OPEN STATEMENT

We work to ensure that our congregation and its leadership represents the community in which we are located. We are dedicated to including women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ as staff and in positions of leadership and decision making.

We renounce the way religion has been used throughout history to support racism, war, discrimination, genocide, violence and poverty, and we pledge to rid ourselves of the conscious and unconscious biases when sacred stories are used to uphold injustice. We are particularly sensitive to the issues facing our brothers and sisters of color and LGBTQ+ individuals, both within the United Methodist Church and in the general society. We pledge to be leaders in eradicating racism and discrimination. You are invited to join us.



**St. Luke's**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
— OPEN FOR YOU —

# *Background Strategy: Equipping Disciples*

Equipping Disciples means moving people beyond just attending church activities to experiencing genuine life-transformation by living out their faith as fully engaged, followers of Jesus Christ. We want to be disciples who make disciples and for our faith to shape every part of our lives.

## **GOALS**

1. Increase our group engagement by 30% over the next year, to reach 1,235 people in groups.
2. Create a Leadership Development Team that will develop St. Luke's leaders as well as leaders throughout our community.
3. Establish a team that personally connects with attenders to St. Luke's to understand where they are in their faith and offer next steps in their discipleship. We expect in the first year to increase the number of people who are growing and serving by 25% (450 people) through these efforts.
4. Reach beyond our walls to invite more people into our community to experience the love and grace of Jesus. In 2022, we want to create such a strong culture of invitation and connection that we see 700 new people commit to a next step as they explore their faith. In 5 years, we want to see 2,500 people involved in a group or class at St. Luke's.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### *Why is this an important part of our Strategic Plan?*

Our discipleship is the foundation of everything we do as followers of Jesus. As we grow in Christ, we are inspired to work for justice, to reach new people, and to create a faith community that truly reflects the Kingdom of God. We frequently hear that people didn't know that a church like St. Luke's exists – and if they had, they would have stayed more engaged in their faith. We have hope to offer, and the confidence to do that comes from our discipleship.

### *What is currently missing in our discipleship?*

This fall, we shared our Discipleship Pathway, the 4 C's of Discipleship: Connect, Commit, Contribute, and Change the World. Most of us are strong in one of these C's, and our goals challenge us to be holistic disciples – living our faith through connection, action, and by using our gifts to lead and change our world.

### *How can I be involved?*

- Participate in a Small Group in Lent and 5•3•1 Challenge
  - Join a Lenten Small Group (beginning March 6)
  - Pray for 5 people without a spiritual home, Invite 3 people to a St. Luke's event or opportunity from March-Easter, and Bring 1 person to Easter worship (in person or online)
- Shape our Leadership Development - join the newly forming Leadership Development Team as we equip and mobilize leaders at St. Luke's and beyond.
- Help us Connect with People - join the newly forming Connection Team to help increase our ability to personally connect with everyone who calls St. Luke's their church

Contact Rev. Mindie Moore at [mindie.moore@stlukesumc.com](mailto:mindie.moore@stlukesumc.com) to express interest and learn more or [complete our survey](#).

# *Background Strategy: City Impact*

In the book of Jeremiah, the prophet instructs God's people to "...seek the welfare of the city where I have brought you in exile, for in its welfare you will find your own welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7). City Impact is our response to God's call to seek the welfare of our city and neighbors to address the challenges of the racial achievement gap, rising food insecurity, infant mortality, and our affordable housing crisis.

## **GOALS**

1. Launch a Freedom School in June 2022 with 100 Scholars in which 85% or more retain or improve their reading level so that we dismantle the pre-school to prison pipeline and invite community children and families to experience our commitment to be a justice-seeking church where "you belong."
2. Train and deploy 75 Hope Ambassadors who directly connect with families and share wrap-around services so that families in poverty or crisis have awareness of resources to increase family stability.
3. Collect 500,000 Diapers, distribute to 1,000 women and raise \$100,000 for St. Luke's Hope Center to reduce stress on mothers and infants in poverty and decrease the infant mortality rate.
4. Reach a combined 10,000 and deploy 259 new volunteers across our initiatives in housing, education, food insecurity, and justice so that lives are transformed, and people experience that God loves them and that "you belong".

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### *Why is this an important part of our Strategic Plan?*

We believe that our welfare is intimately linked to the welfare of our neighbors and that God has called us to be hope for one another. Impacting our city (with a focus on Washington Township) connects us more deeply to those around us, rooting us in the kind of relationship that God uses to bring about transformation. This will require disciples who are growing in their faith and operating out of their areas of gifting, it will stretch us to be more inclusive in who belongs, and it will teach us lessons that might be replicated at other ministry sites in the future.

### *Why develop a Hope Center here and not in the inner city?*

The vision for a Hope Center at St. Luke's is informed by deeply listening to our neighbors and partners at Washington Town. Schools. School social workers have expressed significant challenges in that services are not centralized and easy to access. Our Hope Center will be a hub for families to access wrap-around services to increase family stability and help lift people out of poverty.

### *Why are we starting with diapers?*

In our research, we learned that IN has one of the higher rates of infant mortality. Other community centers have found that addressing the lack of diapers (not covered by federal or state assistance programs) is a key first step and will allow us to build relationships and make connections to other wrap-around services.

### *How can I be involved?*

- Serve at Freedom School
- Become a Hope Ambassador

Contact Rev. Nicole Caldwell-Gross at [nicole.caldwell-gross@stlukesumc.com](mailto:nicole.caldwell-gross@stlukesumc.com) to express interest and learn more or [complete our survey](#).

# *Background Strategy: Multisite Launch*

We hear every week that people didn't know a church like St. Luke's existed. Our values and DNA are connecting with people who have stepped away from faith and are offering people hope. To go to where people are, we will start a digital campus, and two other physical campuses, being intentional about reflecting the demographics of each community.

## **GOALS**

1. We will start a digital campus/community that will be designed to both increase the engagement of our current members and expand the reach of St. Luke's beyond our surrounding community. We will be intentional about creating in-person events (or micro-sites) where there are either saturations of current members/participants or where we see the possibilities of building new connections. (March - April 2022)
2. We will launch a campus in Broad Ripple that is accessible to the particular needs of that community. The physical building will have a multi-purpose use to support a worshipping community and to provide additional streams of sustainable income. The goal is to maintain an average worship attendance of 200 and be financially self-sustaining within 3 years. (Winter 2022)
3. We will launch a third location in the surrounding Indianapolis community. (TBD)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### *Why is this an important part of our Strategic Plan?*

We believe that everyone should have access to a faith community that is intentional about inclusion and the works of justice. We passionately believe that God is calling us to share our community beyond the physical boundaries of 86th St. and to go to where people are.

### *Why are we opening a satellite campus so close in Broad Ripple?*

Broad Ripple is increasing in population density and is projected to be one of the highest growth areas in our city in the next 5 years. We were invited by the Indiana UMC to take over the church there and to launch a new worshipping community that can capture this growth and connect with the unique demographic there – one we believe will resonate with our values. While the location will be different, our unique brand of inclusion will simply be replicated. This means that you can visit either physical location and hear live preaching on identical sermons series. We will simply be one church with many locations.

### *How can I get involved?*

The initial ask is to serve on the Launch Team:

- Digital Campus – 30 individuals who will commit to online worship and content development to help create a community that grows in faith together. 12-month commitment
- Broad Ripple Campus - 75 individuals from 86th St. to commit to worshipping at the Broad Ripple campus for at least 18th months. This work will begin with an 8-week intensive bootcamp (late spring) and carries the expectation of serving at our new location.

Contact Kim Ringham (lay co-leader) at [kim.ringham@gmail.com](mailto:kim.ringham@gmail.com) or Rev. Jevon Caldwell-Gross at [jevon.caldwell-gross@stlukesumc.com](mailto:jevon.caldwell-gross@stlukesumc.com) to express interest and learn more or [complete our survey](#).

# *Background Strategy: Inclusive Expansion*

The work of Inclusive Expansion has to do with our worship and evaluating how well we welcome the diverse populations around us and what unintended obstacles there might be to involvement. Furthermore, we will identify the changes we need to make to our worship styles and approaches to help others feel safe, included, and inspired.

## **GOAL**

As a direct result of the changes we make to worship, by June of 2024, we will increase our worship service attendance by 10%, reflecting the demographics of the surrounding community.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### *Why is this an important part of our strategic plan?*

Because we are a church that is open, inclusive, and welcoming of all people and have demonstrated that through our stands on LGBTQ+ inclusion, anti-racism, ministry to refugees and other ethnic populations. We want to evaluate our worship services and fellowship opportunities to see how well this welcome is experienced and remove any unintended obstacles, so that we help everyone feel safe, included, and inspired in order to reach those who have given up on church or the possibility of a God who loves them.

### *How will we accomplish this in the coming year/years ahead?*

We will conduct listening sessions that engage all voices in our church and underrepresented populations in our community to look at how well our worship experiences and fellowship opportunities appeal to people of all ages, races, and spiritual needs. Based on feedback we receive, worship and fellowship teams will strategize on how to implement new ideas.

### *How will we ensure that LGBTQ+ and our Becoming Anti-Racist work don't get lost in the midst of all that is happening?*

The Inclusive Expansion Team will collaborate with the groups who lead our LGBTQ+ work and Becoming Anti-Racist work so that Inclusive Expansion efforts are informed by their insights and compliment/build upon their progress. We want to partner with them to carry their work into our experience of worship.

### *How can I get involved?*

- If you regularly attend traditional or contemporary worship services at St. Luke's and care about helping us widen our diversity of all ages, races, and spiritual needs of people and would like to be involved please contact Dr. Ryan Poe at the email address below.
- If you are a part of a minority group at St. Luke's (e.g. LGBTQ+, a person of color, etc.) and you would like to be involved in one of our listening sessions, please contact Dr. Ryan Poe at the email address below.
- If you are a part of a minority group at St. Luke's and are interested in being involved in some aspect of Sunday worship (e.g. Scripture Reader, Announcements Host, Instrumentalist or Vocalist, etc.) please contact Dr. Ryan Poe at the email address below.

Contact Dr. Ryan Poe at [ryan.poe@@stlukesumc.com](mailto:ryan.poe@@stlukesumc.com) to express interest and learn more or [complete our survey](#).