

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Timeline 1894-1994

October 20, 1894 - St. Lucas Evangelische Gemeinde is organized.

1900s

October 1900 St. Luke's purchased the church they had been renting from the Presbyterian Church and enlarged it in 1905.

1910s

1919 St. Luke's celebrated its 25th anniversary with special services and commemorations.

1920s

1920 - Sunday School started

1920 - St. Luke's became bilingual; annual reports began to be written in English.

August 1923 - The cornerstone was laid and construction begun on a new red brick church on the same site as the first church, 7319 Hubbard Ave.

August 1924 a dark red brick church, on the same Hubbard street site, was dedicated

1930s

1939 - first Vacation Bible School began

1940s

1942 Parsonage was built next to the church at 7325 Hubbard Ave.

1942 Church Council was expanded seven members with Finance, Benevolence, Worship, Property, Mission and Indebtedness committees

1943 Once a month services in German were discontinued

1944 St. Luke's celebrated its 50th anniversary; the church had grown to 720 confirmed members.

1947 St. Luke's Altar Guild was formed

1950s

June 1952 an addition to the church, Luther Hall, was dedicated

1958 saw the introduction of the concept of family worship with Sunday School sessions between services.

1959 Boy Scout Troop 140 was formed

1959 there were four women's groups: Ladies Aid Society, Women's Missions Society, St. Luke's Altar Guild and Oakwood Auxiliary

1960s

1960 St. Luke's became part of The American Lutheran Church through synod merger

1962 saw the start of team ministry with the hire of an associate pastor

1962 a full-time secretary was employed; sermons began to be tape recorded for use by shut-ins.

1963 St. Luke's became one of the nation's first congregations to offer the intensive Bethel Bible Study; six St. Luke's members completed a two-year teacher training to offer the Bible study to the congregation.

1966 A Director of Parish Education & Youth was created

1966 a third service was added 8:00, 9:45 and 11:20 am

1966 Membership growth resulted in the addition of a third service, the formation of Future Planning and Building committees, were created and the purchase of land adjacent to the church

1969 St. Luke's celebrated 75th anniversary with a special service under a large tent in the church parking lot

1969 Handbell Choir began

1970s

1970 A carillon bell system was purchased and installed, calling the congregation to worship and announcing its presence in the community

1971 children began to accompany their parents to the Lord's Table to receive a blessing

1971 Merry Mission Society was organized to sew quilts

1972 the first woman was elected to the church council

1972 Bylaws revised to allow kids 5th grade and older who have been prepared to receive Communion.

1978 an Acolyte program begun

1979 St. Luke's established an 'outreach ministry' with more than \$50,000 in member gifts and a matching grant from the national church.

1980s

1980 St. Luke's creates the Outreach Mission Program (which became MOM) with the goal of ministering to the needs of the community in nontraditional ways; an executive director/part-time pastor was hired.

1981 St. Luke's vacation bible school was coordinated in an ecumenical venture with the other MOM churches.

1981 Stephen Ministry Program begun

1981 first woman was elected as president of St. Luke's congregation (current member Jeanette "Nette" Schlinsog)

1983 the church purchased its first computer, an IBM PC XT.

1983 saw a new organizational structure designed to place more emphasis on mission and programmatic issues to increase member involvement

In 1984 MOM was restructured into the Middleton Outreach Ministry, Inc. with a board of directors comprised of members from local churches.

1984 the 90th anniversary was celebrated with a special service in German to recognize the church's heritage.

1986 the Schlicker pipe organ was dedicated

January 1988 St. Luke's became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with the merger of three Lutheran synods

1990s

1991 the land needed to build a new church was fully acquired and a building committee for a new church was established

1993 construction began on the new church adjacent to the existing church

April 1994 new church Sanctuary was dedicated and later that year the old church was demolished and became the current parking lot

October 1994 St. Luke's celebrated its Centennial year with the theme 'Christ is our Cornerstone'.

1994 - Centennial Year

First worship at new church April 10, 1994

Endowment Fund created in 1994 in recognition of the 100 year history and to leave a legacy for future generations.

A mid-week program for youth grades kindergarten-sixth grade called Logos started featuring music, Bible study, recreation, crafts and dinner.

1995

A new liturgy using 'the new blue hymnal With One Voice ' introduced in 8:15 am and 10:30 am services.

1996

A wall in the rear of the Sanctuary was replaced with sliding doors to allow for more seating.

1998

Three services on Sunday morning and a Saturday evening worship added.

Joined the Interfaith Hospitality Network (later called The Road Home) a partnership and ministry to Dane County's homeless population.

Legally changed the name from St. Luke's Congregation to St. Luke's Church

1999

Property transfer to create a new parking lot

Developed a world-wide web page for St. Luke's.

Technology to use in total church operation including the purchase of a up-to-date copier which has many convenient and useful features.

2000

Church office remodeled

2001

The Welcoming & Hospitality Committee replaced the Evangelism Committee

Created 2 Sunday School options

9:15 traditional

10:30 combination of worship and school

A new sound system installed

SoulFire, confirmation worship band began Sept. 2001 in 9 and 10:30 am services

2002

Appointed a Building Expansion Committee

Three adult choirs

Alpha series introduced

Wednesday evening service replaced the Saturday evening service

2003

Congregation approved \$3.8 million building expansion project with groundbreaking in August 2003

2004

Expansion project completed in August 2004. Included reconstruction of the education wing, construction of a connecting corridor south of the sanctuary, expansion for a larger narthex, reconstruction of a larger multi-purpose room, expansion of the office area, installation of fire suppression system

Adult Handbells now named Grace Notes

Older Adult Committee name change to Senior Ministry Planning Committee

2005

MOM celebrated 25th anniversary in 2005

2006

Implemented three distinct styles of worship involving 3 styles of music.

8:15 traditional

9:30 blended

10:45 praise band now called 'worship-in-motion'

Confirmation band (comprised of middle and high schoolers) began.

Bus Us Seniors to Worship program begun

Installation of the Information Center in the narthex

2008

Larger choir platform installed and band area permanently installed right side

Christmas Cantata begun by Choir

2009

Five new worship times: 8, 9, 10 and 11 on Sunday mornings; 'Whistlestop' at 6 pm Sunday evening

Sunday School and adult education at 9 and 10 am.

New cranberry red hymnals were purchased.

The first Advent by Candlelight was held; 96 women attended.

2010

Kids now confirmed in the spring of their 9th grade year (vs into 10th grade)

2011

Foundation purchases 15-seat passenger van

Rally Sunday included a parade to Firemen's Park, complete with fire truck, outdoor service and picnic. Huge success!

2012

St. Luke's became a Middleton polling place

Partnership with Divine Savior Lutheran Church in Catano, Puerto Rico created

First St Luke's Sing-a-long at the Capital Brewery in August 2012

First Senior Adult Christmas luncheon with more than 100 attendees

Eight Christmas Eve services

W5 (Women Who Walk in the Word and the World) women's monthly ministry created

Choir robes eliminated

2013

Upgraded the lighting and sound system to include new speakers and a digital mixing board as well as alter lighting, wiring and a lighting control panel.

Visit from partner congregation from Puerto Rico.

Easter Sunday services moved to the Middleton Performing Arts Center

Connection Kiosks were added in the narthex, enabling members to sign up for activities, opportunities and online giving.

Education Wing received a makeover with new paint, and design.

Sisters in Spirit became the new name for the W5

2014

Mission project trip to Puerto Rico to Divine Savior Lutheran Church for the installation of new exterior church doors

Wide screen TV installed in Sanctuary

Three Easter Sunday services at the Middleton Performing Arts Center

Nine Christmas Eve services

Childcare services expanded to offer an infant nursery and a toddler room

Expansion of peer ministry for youth

2015

Offered Vacation Bible School to the community at large at no cost to families funded by congregation donations.

The Music of Christmas concert held the first Sunday in December moved to the Performing Arts Center with 1,557 attending drawing from the MADison Symphony, the UW Symphony and the Middleton Orchestra in addition to St. Luke's musicians

Advent by Candlelight moved to the sanctuary due to growing attendance

Feed My Lambs piloted in April 2015, providing food for 16 elementary students on weekends. It became a permanent program feeding 32 needed children each weekend for the entire school year.

Trained 4 members to become trainers for the Stephen Ministry program.

Men's ministry group formed

2016

Stephen Ministry has 16 trained care givers and 13 member received care

Middleton Good Neighbor Church program created, providing rides for homebound, meals for families going through difficult times, helped with household tasks, and more

Vacation Bible School served 175 children with the help of 200 volunteers, at no charge to the families, serving as an excellent outreach to families without church homes.

The Alpha ministry program started

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Program "The Forget-me-nots Group" started in cooperation with the Middleton Senior Center

2017

"Perk, Park and Play" campaign raised more than \$200,000 to renovate the kitchen, repair a large section of the parking lot and fix up the youth area in the lower level

Oasis Wednesday night worship started in September 2017. Music, meditation and messages from members of the congregation.

A Celebration Concert was held the first Sunday in June bringing all St. Luke's musicians together

Griefshare program started

2018

St. Luke's VBS served as a regional training site for Group Publishing. VBS was extended to offer two different weeks; a three-day morning only for preschoolers and a all-day four-day for kindergarten - fourth grade.

A 7 am liturgical sunrise Easter service held in the sanctuary was added to the Easter Sunday service offering (with two other services at the PAC)

The St. Luke's Church App was launched providing timely information and communication about church activities, payments, prayer requests, Bible readings and more.

Luke's Closet, a ministry designed to help Dane County foster/adoptive/kinship families with clothing needs for children and teens 0-18.

2019

Middleton's first Scouts BSA Troop for girls, Troop 40 was chartered by St. Luke's.

Luke's Crew, Good Neighbor Dinner, Luke's Exchange and Guides & Gurus created.