



# Legacy News

October 2021

## Foundation Surpasses \$1 Million

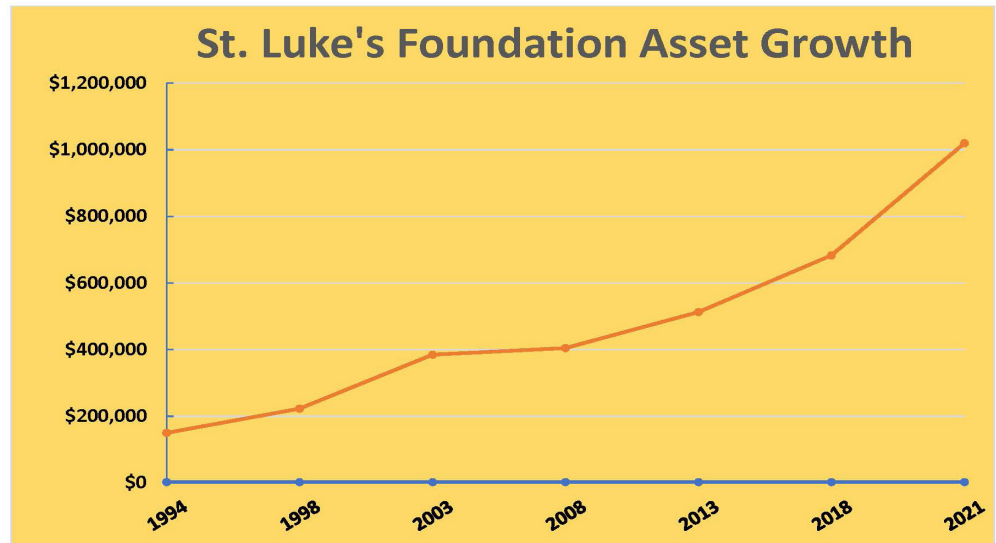
Thanks to twenty-seven years of generous support from numerous St. Luke's members, the St. Luke's Foundation has moved past the \$1,000,000 level in total assets! The Foundation balance as of September 30, 2021 is \$1,054,624.

The concept of a Foundation for St. Luke's began in 1991 with the Centennial Committee consisting of Barb Akeman, Barb Moseng, Dale Peterson, Tom Plumb, Jerry Schwoch, and Bill Wegner, Sr. The St. Luke's Foundation officially started in 1994 with a balance of roughly \$150,000. Many St. Luke's members have contributed their money, time, and talent to growing and managing the Foundation over the years.

Foundation funds have been bolstered by two large estate settlements in recent years. The Ollie Groth Fund provided over \$180,000 in 2007 and the Frederick Brumm estate bequeathed a total of \$376,000 to the Foundation in 2019. These extremely generous bequests and the expertise of Baird have doubled the value of the Foundation over the past 8 years.

The Foundation has been able to provide increased support over the years to a variety of St. Luke's needs and activities not covered by the church's annual budget. In 2020 alone, financial support provided by the Foundation totaled \$80,400 including the need for video equipment for the church's online services.

Thank you again to the many St. Luke's members who have supported the Foundation since 1994. We look forward to continuing the growth of the Foundation with your support to meet the ongoing and unexpected needs of St. Luke's for many years to come.



## Wills and Estate Plans - A Testimonial

My Dad died intestate, i.e., with no will. He was a relatively young man at age 61 and left my Mom and four sons. Because my Mom survived him, the probate, yes, there was a probate, was straightforward. It still took a lot of time and appearances before a judge. I learned a lot from that experience. Once all was settled my Mom and I visited an attorney and had a will drawn-up. That will changed a few times as Mom's circumstances changed over the years. When she died at 91, we were prepared. Her instructions to me were simple – "Tommy – just follow the will".

We have a will. It is part of an estate plan that includes trust arrangements for our children and grandchildren. We've always had a will but the estate plan was something new. Estate. The word alone seems a little hoity-toity. It seems to imply a much bigger set of assets than we think of as we look

around our life. So why have an estate plan? In our case we were ensuring that our kids and grandkids would be provided for in the best way we knew of for the long-term.

Was it difficult to pull together a plan? Not really, but it did require an attorney and it weighs about 4 pounds. But that's 4 pounds of peace of mind and assurance that we've done the best we can for their futures. What prompted us to finally establish a plan? Travel. We planned a long-awaited trip requiring many flights and of course it would be done as a couple. We're fairly seasoned travelers and we knew the odds of anything serious happening to us were remote and unlikely. All that notwithstanding, we wanted to be absolutely certain that we left our after death-wishes clear and that we had established appropriate financial vehicles to help our kids.

My advice is don't wait – seriously consider a will and estate plan, if appropriate. And hey – take the trip! ~By Tom Scott

## The Value of a Living Will

Most Americans are familiar with the term “advance directives” (or living will), however, the completion of these documents remains low, even for those who live with a chronic illness (such as heart or lung disease). Many people think they can wait until they are older, sicker, or have more time and many people think their loved ones already know what they would want for medical care and treatment.

However, we don't know when we might have a sudden event (a car accident), illness (stroke), or complication from an illness (heart attack) that could leave us unable to make our own decisions, AND most family members are often unaware and unprepared to make decisions for those they love.

If you have created an advance directive, you may feel you have nothing more to do. Unfortunately, many advance directives do not contain specific information to aid decision-making. Loved ones and doctors may disagree over the “right” decisions. What's missing? The “Conversation”.

The advance care planning “Conversation” first includes talking to the person (healthcare agent/family member) who you feel could make decisions on your behalf. Does he/she understand your values? Is he/she willing to follow your decisions (even if they disagree)?

The “Conversation” includes talking about your values and what “quality of life” means to you. For example, if you had a sudden complication and were unable to make your own healthcare decisions and...

- There was less than a 5% chance you would recover your mental abilities, would you want to continue life support?
- It was likely you would not be able to physically care for yourself again, would you want to continue life support?

There are many ways and reasons to begin the “Conversation”. The first time is the hardest, but conversations help prepare your healthcare agent to honor your life and your values. ~By Linda Briggs

## Mission Statement

We proclaim and serve Christ... Here, there, and everywhere ~Now and into the Future

## Foundation Events Postponed to 2022

After weeks of planning, the Foundation Committee has decided to postpone the Life Decisions and Legacy Planning Seminar Series and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Foundation Reception due to Covid-19 concerns. The Committee hopes to reschedule both events for the spring of 2022.

The seminar series will be presented in five weekly sessions on Sunday mornings. Topics to be covered include:

1. Leaving A Legacy – Insurance and Investments, IRA distributions, and communicating plans to family.
2. Senior Care – Nursing home planning, palliative care, and guardianship.
3. Estate Planning - Documenting your wishes.
4. Funerals - Advanced Planning – Benefits of planning including burial plot and cremation considerations.
5. Planning Your Celebration of Life – St. Luke's pastors discuss planning your funeral service and related considerations.

Our initial Foundation Reception in 2019 had 40 attendees as we celebrated those St. Luke's members who helped create and grow the Foundation over the years and discussed future plans. We look forward to an even bigger event in 2022.

## Legacy Giving to the St. Luke's Foundation

The primary goal of the St. Luke's Foundation is to sustain our Christian vision and stewardship by providing financial resources for the future so that we can LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS.

Long-term gifts through wills and estate plans are essential in providing financial resources to serve unforeseen needs of St. Luke's 10, 25 and even 50 years from now. Long-term support of the Foundation can be accomplished through bequests, qualified charitable distributions, securities and other instruments. Please consider a future gift to the St. Luke's Foundation!

## 2021 Scholarships

In 2021, the Scholarship Committee worked with the Foundation Committee to award scholarships totaling nearly \$23,000. St. Luke's students receiving scholarship this year are attending universities all over the country. Congratulations!

## Foundation Gifts

Both current and future gifts to the Foundation are welcome and greatly appreciated as we prepare for our future. While gifts over \$10,000 may be designated for any purpose you feel is important to our church, any gifts are welcome and may be directed to:

Scholarships  
Music  
Ministry Areas and Missions  
Building and Property Needs  
General Foundation

Gifts should be specifically identified as going to the Foundation. For more information, contact St. Luke's Business Manager, Jeanette Kihs, or a Foundation Committee member.

## Foundation Balance

12/31/2020	\$ 994,013
9/30/2021	\$1,054,624

## Committee Members:

Bob Wortinger, Chair  
Andy Roquet, Vice-Chair & Scholarship Liaison  
Mary Schwoch, Secretary  
Tom Scott, Treasurer  
Linda Janousek, Member  
Larry Pincombe, Member  
Sylvia Donaldson, Council Liaison

## Newsletter Editors:

Mary Schwoch  
Bob Wortinger

