

# BUILDING BRIDGES

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## CONNECTING CONGREGATION, COLLEGE, AND COMMUNITY

Since 1896, the mission of Luther Memorial Church has been to share the love of Jesus with each other, Grand View University, and its community. This original vision created the college, assisted immigrants in adjusting to their lives in a new land, built up a congregation, developed the Union Park neighborhood, and led to the formation of a seminary for the training of pastors. Those early founders understood the importance of collaboration among the congregation, college, and community. Over the decades, these bonds loosened as the neighborhood became less Danish and Grand View became an entity separate from the church. However, in the past decade, Luther Memorial has reengaged its historic relationship with Grand View and the surrounding neighborhood. Today, the fruit of this mutually beneficial relationship is LMC's active engagement with Grand View University in arts and religious programming, after-school activities for neighborhood children, grant-funded projects, and attracting new members to the congregation.

The Luther Memorial Church building project harnesses the synergy among community, college, and congregation to preserve our rich history, meet modern-day needs, and create space for transformative community engagement. The building design includes the addition of wings on the east and west sides of the sanctuary building as well as a restoration of the sanctuary which signifies a holistic approach to life: mind, body, and spirit.



## EAST WING: Building Minds through Education

### KEY EAST WING USES

The NEXUS Institute  
The Moses Project  
Vacation Bible School  
Children's Education  
Fellowship  
Mercy & Outreach  
WELCA

Luther Memorial was founded in the tradition of N.F.S. Grundtvig, who taught the pursuit of vocation as a way to advance society. The construction of the east wing reflects Grundtvig's twofold vision of church and community linked together as it houses the staff of Luther Memorial Church and Grand View University's Campus Ministry.

Having Campus Ministry move into this space allows more opportunities for student faith engagement and interaction with the congregation to occur through weekly chapel, Peer Ministry, Bible studies, evening worship, and much more. In addition, two key Lilly Endowment grant-funded ministries, the NEXUS Institute and the Moses Project, will be formally connected to the

church and housed in this wing. The NEXUS Institute brings high school-aged youth together to explore religious vocations. The Moses Project supports newly ordained pastors serving in rural Lutheran contexts.

Architecturally, a new elevator, new restrooms, automated doors, and a nursery will assist in accessibility and safety concerns that our previous wing couldn't accommodate. The focal point for the wing is the atrium, which will be a gathering space before and after worship, a hangout space for college students, and an open area for the community to engage the congregation. Much to the delight of many in the congregation, the atrium will allow natural sunlight to once again shine through the historic stained-glass windows on the eastern side of the sanctuary.



*N.F.S. Grundtvig was a Danish pastor, author, poet, philosopher, historian, teacher, and politician whose teachings influenced the folk school movement in Denmark and throughout the world.*

### CAMPUS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**62** average of students per chapel

**over 100** Peer Ministers certified

**40** high school students a year at Nexus

**8** states represented by pastors in The Moses Project

## WEST WING: Building Bodies through Community

### KEY WEST WING USES

Campus Ministry  
Viking Kids Club  
Views Forward  
City Voices  
Aebleskiver Brunch  
Wedding Receptions  
Special Services

The west wing is designed specifically with the community in mind. Originally, the church's fellowship hall accommodated luncheons, dancing around the Christmas tree, vacation bible school, and many other events for the congregation. In recent years, community programming outgrew the fellowship hall's capacity. Viking Kids Club, for example, has had to turn away children because we exceeded maximum capacity.

The new wing is designed to be a place in which the church lives out its vocation to serve our neighbor through community engagement. City Voices, a community organization offering free music lessons to students, will be able to expand their programming at LMC. Grand View's "Views Forward" program, a cooperative effort between Grand View and community leaders, will utilize the space for collaboration.

The new wing will allow "Views Forward" and related programs to host events in a space that will function as a bridge between the University and the community. In addition, the west wing will allow additional

space for wedding receptions, luncheons following special services such as homecoming worship and first worship, the Thanksgiving meal, and the bi-annual aebleskiver brunches. Campus Ministry will also be able to host meals and learning opportunities in this space.

The west wing's defining feature is a fireplace accessible to people both inside and outside the building. The fireplace is meant to bring *hygge* to all who gather near it. Immediately outside the west wing is an outdoor amphitheater for concerts, community gatherings, and much more.

**HYGGE**  
/'h(y)oo̯gə, 'hoo̯gə/



Pronounced "hoo-gah," hygge is a Danish word that describes a feeling or moment of well-being, coziness, and contentment that arises from friendships, good humor, coffee, fireplaces, and anything that helps people embrace the happiness of life.



# SANCTUARY RESTORATION: Building Spirit

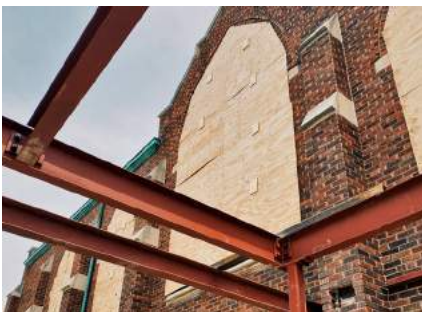
The restoration of Luther Memorial Church is meant to honor members' heritage and the beauty of the sanctuary's architecture along with the remarkable folk art it contains. A new roof, fresh paint, restored stained glass windows, and a restored ship will revitalize this central space. The ship that hangs in the sanctuary is aptly named Hjemad (Homeward), reminding generations of the church's immigrant heritage and reassuring them that, regardless of the path that brought them here, we are journeying together toward our eternal home.

The sanctuary is the heart of the church, providing a haven for members and visitors to gather, worship, and renew their faith. In the past decade, LMC has experienced tremendous growth. Once construction is completed, work will be done to secure Luther Memorial's place on the National Register of Historic Places. This restoration is more than a look backward; it is truly a way forward.

Architecturally, to enter the sanctuary, one must go over a bridge. This is not only a metaphor for the Danes who crossed an ocean to make a life here; it is also a metaphor for the entire project as the congregation's mission is all about creating bridges for people to engage their faith. For some, the bridge is Viking Kids Club. For others, the bridge is Grand View's Campus Ministry. Many more bridges will be built when this project comes to fruition. Luther Memorial's building project is an extension of its original mission and reinforces the interconnectedness of the congregation, college, and community. It is designed to create physical space - inviting people in, providing space for strengthening relationships, deepening faith, learning together, and serving each other and the community. It is a demonstration of our commitment to live out our mission for many years to come.



*Danish immigrant Jens Smidt carved numerous altar and pulpits for Danish American churches. His folk-art beautified churches and lifted the spirits of those who worshipped.*



## SUPPORT REQUESTED

It is striking that our project is occurring during a pandemic because the original sanctuary was built during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. Back then, the congregation found a way forward by faithfully joining together and calling on friends far and near to participate in their vision.

Today, as we sail into the next 100 years of mission, we are inviting you to join us. The total project will cost \$4.5 million. We have already received a number of financial and in-kind contributions from current and past congregation members, corporations, community grants, and Grand View University. These generous gifts provided the security to begin construction. Your support will help bring the vision to reality.

### TO GIVE BY MAIL:

Make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church

Write "Capital Campaign" in the memo

### TO GIVE ONLINE:

[LutherMemorialDSM.org/Building-Bridges](https://LutherMemorialDSM.org/Building-Bridges)

### FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:

[info@LutherMemorialDSM.org](mailto:info@LutherMemorialDSM.org)



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