



PRESERVING A SACRED TREASURE

FUNDRAISING CASE STATEMENT

Cross of Christ Church

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Houston, Minnesota 55943

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www.crossofchristhouston.org



The Stained-Glass Windows of Cross of Christ Church

The history of Cross of Christ dates back to 1855, when the Houston Lutheran Church was organized. The congregation originally had three buildings – the historic Stone Church, St. Peter's Church, and Cross of Christ Church, as listed in the 2014 church directory.

Each of these buildings had its own character, but all three shared the eye-catching, colorful glow of stained-glass windows. The artwork in the Stone Church and Cross of Christ tells its own stories. The windows of Cross of Christ Church depict the story of salvation from the Garden of Eden to the present.

Since its construction in 1960, following groundbreaking in 1959, Cross of Christ Church has been adorned with beautiful stained-glass windows that fill our sanctuary with light, color, and meaning. These windows are more than just works of art; they serve as visible reminders of faith, grace, and the gifts of past generations who built this church as a place of worship and community.

The stained glass in the Narthex depicts the Garden of Eden. The West Windows, from back to front, focus on Prophecy, Passion, Immanuel, Resurrection, and Baptism. The East Windows, from front to back, focus on Mission, Doctrine, Stewardship, and Expansion.

Pastor Dana led a Lenten series on the church's stained glass. During that series,

***"One generation
commends your works
to another; they tell of
your mighty acts."***

(Psalm 145:4)

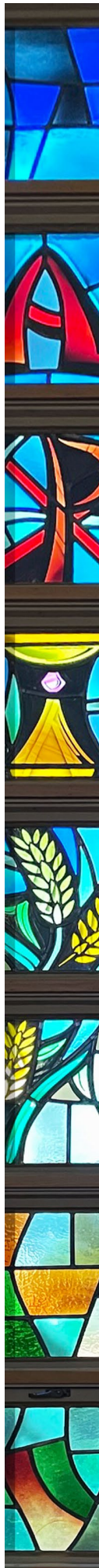
she explained how the stained glass of the Cross of Christ tells Bible stories of God's faithfulness and shows how the church's mission helps each of us live out our purpose.

"The church's mission is to serve and love the world as Christ did," explains Pastor Dana.

The Need is real. The time is now.

Time and weather have caused the wooden framing supporting the stained glass to deteriorate and decay. An expert review confirms that replacing the rotted wood is essential to preserve the integrity and beauty of the windows. Ignoring this could harm a priceless part of our church's heritage.





After careful review of several estimates, the Church Council has approved a contract with Cathedral Crafts pending a congregational vote. This company is a nationally respected company with over 30 years of experience restoring stained glass windows in churches across the country. The total cost of this work is \$107,000. The work will start next Summer or Fall and will be completed in five to seven weeks.

It is estimated that the frames will last 100 years by replacing the wood with anodized aluminum frames that will not only preserve the integrity of the stained glass, but also provide increased energy efficiency. The renovation will save on heating and cooling costs for decades to come.

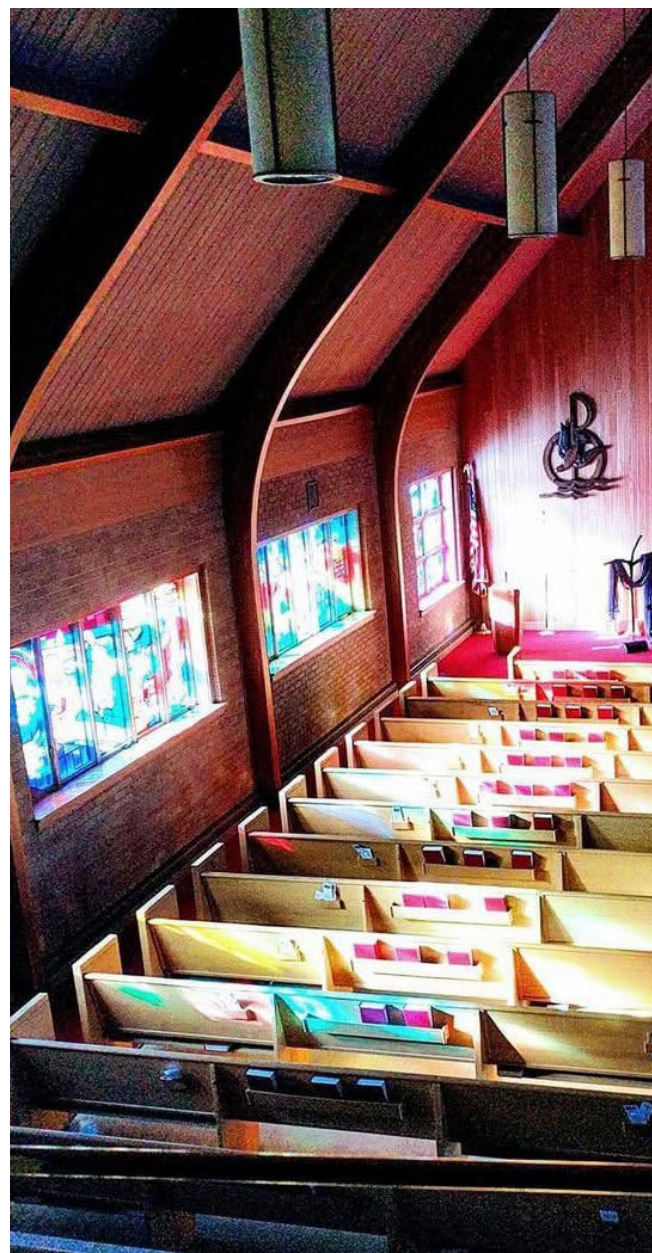
Proposal for Repair and Preservation

A total of twelve stained glass window areas are located in the main sanctuary and vestibule:

- One in the vestibule
- Six are located on the West elevation of the sanctuary
- Four are located on the East elevation of the sanctuary
- Two windows are located by the Altar

Proposal

- Reduce all bulges
- Re-Cement each stained-glass panel
- Install necessary new steel reinforcing braces for additional strength
- Remove all of the existing wood frames and glass
- Install new triple-glazed fixed aluminum window frames
- Install new triple-glazed fixed aluminum window frames with two layers of glass separated by 1/2-inch filled with argon gas forming a 1" thermal pane with a separate interior channel for the stained-glass panels.



- The stained-glass panels will be set in their own interior channel as the interior glazing.

Cathedral Crafts Inc. will use high-quality silicone sealants and urethane caulks to seal the installations. Each product has its own unique qualities, and the appropriate product is selected for each project based on its specific requirements. Using the correct sealants enables Cathedral Crafts Inc. to ensure a weather-tight seal

Cathedral Crafts Inc. guarantees this installation to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five years.



A Biblical Example

Many Bible stories recount situations where people were asked to help raise funds for temple repairs. In one example, when the temple in Jerusalem needed renovation, King Joash gathered the faithful to contribute for the restoration.

"Joash decided to restore the temple of the Lord. He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, 'Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now.' ... The king commanded, and they made a chest and placed it outside, at the gate of the temple of the Lord. All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full." (2 Chronicles 24:4-8, 10)

Like the people of Israel, we too are being called to preserve and restore the house of God entrusted to us.

The Commitment

Cross of Christ has always been a strong and generous congregation. To start this project next year, the Council recommends that the congregation temporarily use funds from the Memorial Fund or other accounts until the pledges are paid. Once the pledges are fulfilled, the Council will reinvest the proceeds from the stained-glass campaign back into the accounts. This approach ensures that the work can proceed without significant delay while pledges are received and repaid over a period of one to two years.

The Church Council is asking the congregation for two things:

1. Approve spending \$107,000 for the project in Fall 2025. An unbudgeted expense of this magnitude requires congregational approval, as per the church constitution.
2. Approve borrowing from the Cross of Christ own savings and/or endowment

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."

(Luke 6:38)

accounts, if needed. The account(s) would be paid back as pledges are paid.

The church has used this strategy before, and it has been successful. In 2014, the congregation approved a \$400,000 building project. The pledge drive started in 2013, but members had only raised \$107,709.

According to Patrick Forsyth, Cross of Church Financial Administrator, "At that time, the council considered waiting a few more years or borrowing from a bank. Waiting would have led to a higher overall cost. Borrowing from a bank could have resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in interest. The congregation approved borrowing the remaining funds from Cross of Christ's savings and endowment accounts, with the condition that the pledge drive would continue until the accounts were repaid. By January 2018, the endowment was fully paid back!"

Patrick and Finance Cabinet council member, Steve Halvorson, confirm that the church is in a good financial position to borrow from its assets.

The church council is confident that the congregation will recognize the need and respond by making outright gifts or pledges that can be paid over two years to complete the necessary repair and restoration.

The Invitation

This is an opportunity for our congregation to come together once again—just as those before us did when they built our church and have contributed to its upkeep since that time—to preserve treasured symbols of faith for future generations.

By contributing to this fundraising drive, we not only maintain the beauty of our sanctuary but also ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine through biblical teaching for children and adults alike through these windows for decades to come.

An anonymous donor has pledged \$10,000, showing early support. The Council and Stewardship Cabinet members will each contribute to kick off this initiative.

Gifts can be pledged and paid over two years, enabling congregation members to be as generous as possible in reaching this important goal. Those who pledge will be reminded twice a year, in May and November, to fulfill their commitments as they wish.

Cross of Christ Church Council

Officers

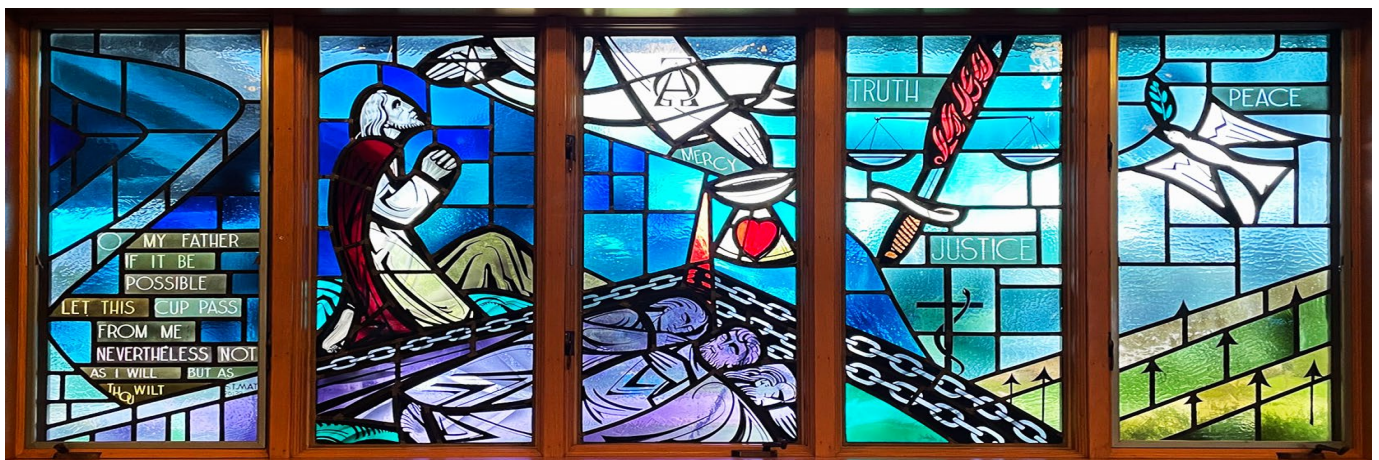
Sandy Erickson, President
Brad Hongerholt, Vice President
Marsha Benson, Council Secretary
Patrick Forsyth, Financial Administrator

Cabinet

Steve Halvorson, Finance
Jessica Boettger, Youth & Family
Michael Markegard, Cross of Christ Building
Chuck Halvorson, Cross of Christ Grounds
Mike Berg, Evangelism
Lyn Halvorson, Chair, WELCA
Ellen Hongerholt, Stewardship
Ron Evenson, Personnel
Kathy Olson, Worship & Music
Heather Reay, Education
Wayne Runningen, Stone Church
Claire Reay, Youth Representative

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

(1 Peter 4:10)



Gift Pyramid Example for Proposed \$107,000 Fundraising Drive

This chart illustrates an example of the amounts required to meet the \$107,000 goal, including total pledges and gifts. There is a science to fundraising observed in many capital campaigns and fundraising efforts nationwide. Fundraising consultants typically note the following facts about fundraising for capital needs, which remain true for this drive as well:

- Donors can be more generous when there is a longer time period to pay the amount pledged. In this case, the total amount can be pledged and paid over two years.
- A lead gift is usually required of 10% to 15% to reach most fundraising goals.
- Approximately 12 to 16 contributions typically account for 70 to 80 percent

of all campaign goals, regardless of the total fundraising goal.

- Every gift is needed to meet the goal.

This chart is an example of the approximate gifts needed to meet the \$107,000 goal. Please see the Number Required Column. To be successful, the drive will need at least one gift of \$15,000, two gifts between \$10,000 and \$14,999 (one pledge is already secured), four gifts from \$5,000 to \$9,999, 6 contributions of \$1,000 to \$4,999, and many total pledges less than \$1,000. Contributions of any amount are needed and greatly appreciated!

The church council invites all church members to consider a contribution or pledge that holds meaning for them. All contributions and pledges are confidential.

Range of Gifts		Number Required	\$ at this Level	Total Donors	Total Dollars	Percent of Goal
\$15,000	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	14%
\$10,000	\$14,999	2	\$24,999	3	\$39,999	37%
\$5,000	\$9,999	4	\$28,000	7	\$67,999	64%
\$1,000	\$4,999	6	\$17,997	13	\$85,996	80%
\$500	\$999	16	\$11,992	29	\$97,988	92%
\$100	\$500	35	\$10,500	64	\$108,488	101%
	<\$0,100	many	>\$-1,488	many	>\$107,000	

Call to Action

The first step will involve a congregational vote on Sunday, October 5, to borrow \$107,000 from church funds, which will be repaid in full within two years.

We invite every member and friend of Cross of Christ Church to prayerfully consider the importance of this proposed fundraising effort. First, please pray about the congregational vote to approve borrowing from the Memorial Fund until pledges are paid. Second, we hope you will consider making a pledge or gift of any amount that is meaningful to you and can be paid over two years.

Your contribution will help preserve our stained-glass windows, honor the legacy of those who came before us, and strengthen our witness for future generations.

Please submit your pledge commitment form found on the back of this case statement in the coming weeks and months. Note **Stained-Glass Preservation** on your checks and send or deliver them to the church office.

Contributions of any amount are important and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for considering a pledge or gift.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need to repair the Cross of Christ stained-glass windows?

Our stained-glass windows have decorated the sanctuary for the past 65 years. Over time, the wooden frames holding them have weakened due to weather and age. If not replaced soon, the structural integrity of the windows could be at risk. This isn't just about visual appeal — it's about protecting a treasured part of our worship space and history.

2. How did the council determine its recommendations?

The council has been reviewing and discussing the need for several months. At August's council meeting, the church council voted unanimously to move forward with the project, if the congregation votes to approve borrowing the down payment and the remaining amount while the pledges are paid back as required by the church constitution.

3. How much will this project cost and when will it be completed?

The total cost of the project is \$107,000. The project is expected to be completed next Summer or Fall. However, concerns exist that costs will increase over the coming months due to increased material costs, so Cathedral Crafts is suggesting that the church lock in a payment of 35% or \$37,450 this Fall.

4. Why was Cathedral Crafts from Winona chosen?

The Church Council carefully reviewed several estimates and contractors. Cathedral Crafts has over 30 years of experience restoring stained-glass windows in churches across the nation. They are highly respected and possess the expertise needed for a project of this importance.

5. How will we pay for this?

The congregation is being asked to approve a temporary loan from our church's accounts (such as the Memorial or other fund) until the funds are repaid. This loan will last up to two years, allowing time for pledges to be received and repaid.

6. Is there already support for this project?

Yes! An anonymous donor has already pledged \$10,000 toward the project, showing strong early commitment. We are confident our congregation, known for its strength and generosity, will step forward joyfully.

7. Why borrow from the church funds instead of waiting for pledges to come in first?

The work needs to be done now to prevent further deterioration and higher costs later. By borrowing from church accounts, we can lock in the cost while still ensuring pledges are gathered and the fund is repaid in a timely way.

8. Are we in good financial standing to borrow from church accounts?

Patrick Forstyth, Financial Administrator, and Finance Cabinet leader, Steve Halvorson believe the church is in good financial position to borrow from these funds for a short period of two years.



Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

9. What does the Bible say about projects like this?

We find encouragement in Scripture. In one example, when the temple needed repair, King Joash called on the people to give: "All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full." (2 Chronicles 24:10)

This is the same spirit we bring to this campaign: joyfully giving to preserve the house of God entrusted to us.

10. How can I participate?

Each member of Cross of Christ Church is invited to prayerfully consider a pledge that may be paid off up to two years. No gift is too small. Together, our offerings will ensure the stained-glass continues to inspire worship and witness for generations to come.

11. What's the next step?

First, according to the church constitution, on October 5 the congregation will vote on the council's recommendation to borrow from a church fund or a combination of church funds. After approval, the Stewardship Cabinet will start the pledge campaign.

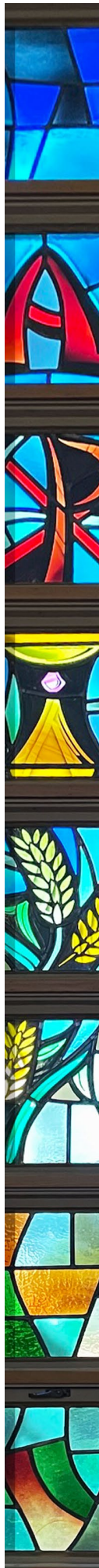
Closing Word from the Stewardship Cabinet

We believe this is more than a repair project—it is an act of faith. Just as generations before us gave sacrificially to build this church, now it is our turn to preserve its beauty and strength for the future. Thank you for joining us in this campaign.



*"Let us not
become weary
in doing good,
for at the proper
time we will reap
a harvest if we
do not give up."
(Galatians 6:9)*

September 10, 2025



CROSS OF CHRIST

STAINED GLASS REPAIR & PRESERVATION PLEDGE FORM

Donor Information

Name _____ Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Support the Stained Glass Repair & Preservation

I (we) pledge a total of: \$ _____ in support of the fundraising drive.

I wish to spread my donation over the following years:

Year	2025	2026	2027 (spring)
Contribution	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

This pledge is a commitment to give the amount specified.

Contribution Information

☐ I would like my gift to be anonymous

☐ Check – Make checks payable to: **Cross of Christ | 204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN 55943**

If you are interested in giving by the following methods, please get in touch with Patrick Forsyth, Financial Administrator, at 507-896-3030.

☐ Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) ☐ Qualified Charitable Distribution

☐ Donor Advised Fund ☐ Charitable Trust ☐ Stock Transfer

☐ Other (describe) _____