

Grace Lutheran Church

Future Grace

September 24, 2023

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Strengths

- Christ centered/Neighbor centered congregation
- Stable welcoming congregation with strong sense of community
- Dedicated, enthusiastic Pastor
- Full time Cantor
- Downtown location for varied and strong outreach ministries
- Ample square footage
- No debt/positive net worth
- Grace Trust Assets and US Bank Trust Income
- Parking Lot
- Food Pantry

Weaknesses (Areas for Growth)

- Aging congregation, fewer young people to share in leadership
- Downtown location: security issues, proximity for congregation
- Declining income base
- Current underfunding for Berners Schober
- Aging Structure, ongoing maintenance costs
- Landlocked, compartmentalized structure with accessibility issues
- Food Pantry: traffic, weather, physical ability requirements of workers
- Remote parking

Opportunities

- Invest in our children's faith
- Focus on Evangelism and recruitment
- Downtown location offers opportunities to leverage activities/events
- Advertise our outreach ministries, music, worship, openness
- Increase parking lot revenue
- Fix up and invest in 2nd floor for community usage
- New physical space for Food Pantry
- Apply for public/private grants
- Building share with another downtown church

Threats

- Springfield population aging and declining
- Declining enrollment/aging congregation likely less financial support
- Use of Trust income to balance budget
- Newer generations outlook on a physical building
- Newer generations outlook on giving
- Online worship trend
- Funding necessary to revamp 2nd and 3rd floor
- City further restricts traffic access of clients to Food Pantry
- Rising food prices and inflation drive up food costs
- Cuts in childcare supplements and food increase usage of Food Pantry
- Increasing security with downtown location