

Grace Lutheran Church SWOT

<p><u>Strengths</u> Christ centered/Neighbor centered congregation Stable welcoming congregation with strong sense of community Dedicated, enthusiastic pastor Full time Cantor Downtown location appropriate for outreach ministries Varied and strong community outreach ministries Ample Square Footage Historic Site location No debt Positive net worth Grace Trust Assets and US Bank trust Income Parking Lot Established Food Pantry</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses (Areas for Growth)</u> Aging congregation with few young families and youth Fewer younger people to share in leadership and committee roles Downtown location limits the number of congregants living in close proximity Declining income base to cover future building and operation needs Current underfunding for completion of 10-year Berners Schober Building Assessment Aging structure with unknowns behind the walls Ongoing maintenance costs of current building and equipment Landlocked, compartmentalized structure with accessibility issues Food Pantry setup necessitates working outside in weather Food Pantry setup necessitates workers with strong physical abilities for lifting and stairs Traffic issues are increasing for those driving up to Food Pantry Parking is remote Security issues with a downtown location</p>
<p><u>Opportunities</u> Invest in our children's faith Focus on Evangelism and recruitment efforts Downtown location offers opportunities to leverage activities/events in the area such as: Hoogland, Levitt Center, Art Fair, Music Events, Pride Fest and advertise our church and ministries Advertise our outreach ministries, music, worship and openness Increase parking lot rental, possibly bringing in more revenue Fix up the 3rd floor for community usage such as music classes, after school tutoring, adult daycare Look for a physical space for the Food Pantry that would enable evening or weekend hours increasing access for those served and attracting more youth to serve Look for a physical space for the Food Pantry to increase drive up access for those served Apply for public/private grants Building share with another downtown church</p>	<p><u>Threats</u> The population of Springfield is aging and declining Declining enrollment and aging congregation likely means less financial support Use of Trust income to balance the church's operating budget Newer generations do not regard a building as necessary for worship Newer generations do not have the resources nor the will to give financially as earlier generations did Online worship trend Funding necessary to revamp 3rd and 4th floor City further restricts access via street traffic to Food Pantry Rising food prices and inflation continue to drive up food costs Cuts in childcare supplements and job layoffs (Memorial) increase food insecurity and need Increasing security issues with the downtown location</p>