

Zion Lutheran Church

Phase I: Sanctuary Refresh Proposal

Renewing Our Sacred Space for the Next Generation

Presented to the Congregation — October 2026

"Honoring our heritage. Welcoming our future."

A Message from the Leadership

To our beloved congregation: we begin with gratitude. Year after year, through seasons of celebration and seasons of challenge, you have remained faithful stewards of this church — its mission, its community, and its sacred spaces. The generosity and dedication you bring to this congregation is a gift we do not take lightly, and it is because of that trust that we bring this proposal before you today.

What you hold in your hands is not a blueprint for a wholesale renovation. It is something more intentional than that. The Sanctuary Refresh Committee, working in close and prayerful collaboration with church leadership, has developed a carefully scoped Phase I Refresh — a thoughtful first step designed to breathe new life and renewed dignity into our worship space without disrupting the rhythms and roots that make it home. Every decision in this plan has been made with deliberation, humility, and a sincere desire to be wise stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Our sanctuary is a sacred gift — its architecture, its history, the generations of faith it has witnessed. Our aim is to honor all of that, while also ensuring that our space is as inviting, functional, and accessible as it can be for the families and neighbors we welcome through our doors every week. We believe this refresh is both an act of faithfulness to our past and an investment in our future together. We invite you to read, ask questions, and join us in this renewal.



PHOTO 1: Current Sanctuary Interior, Front View

Our beloved sanctuary as it stands today — full of memories and ready for renewal.

Phase I: A Focused, Faithful First Step

Phase I is intentionally scoped. Rather than attempting to address every need at once, the committee identified the improvements that would have the most immediate and visible impact on our congregation's experience of worship. These are the areas where deferred maintenance is most apparent, where investment will be most noticed, and where the transformation will most directly serve both longtime members and first-time visitors.

Phase I of the Sanctuary Refresh focuses on four primary areas of improvement: carpet, lighting, organ and sound improvements, and choir chairs. Together, these elements address important aspects of the sanctuary that influence both the worship experience and the overall appearance and function of space. The goal is not to change the character of our sanctuary, but rather to thoughtfully refresh and enhance the space while respecting the traditions and history that have made it meaningful to generations of worshippers.

By concentrating Phase I on these four areas, the project remains focused, manageable, and financially responsible. Each improvement has been selected with an eye toward stewardship, functionality, and the long-term needs of our congregation and music ministry. This focused approach allows us to make meaningful improvements now while preserving the opportunity to consider other sanctuary needs in future phases as resources and priorities allow.



Why The Time Is Right

Our sanctuary was last significantly updated more than twenty years ago. In the time since, the ordinary wear of worship — the faithful decades of Sunday mornings, weddings, memorials, Christmas Eves, and ordinary Tuesdays — has accumulated in ways both visible and less so. Stained carpet, worn finishes, and dated fixtures are not signs of neglect; they are signs of a space that has been well and truly used. But proactive stewardship means choosing to act before deferred maintenance becomes costly emergency repair. The time to refresh is now, while our options remain broad and our costs predictable.

There is also a missional dimension to this moment. Our congregation has grown. We welcome new families, seekers, and neighbors with increasing frequency. A well-kept, thoughtfully maintained worship space communicates something important before a single word is spoken — it says that this community cares, that this place is worthy of your presence. Phase I is designed to be completed during a planned summer schedule gap, minimizing disruption to regular worship.

"A well-kept sanctuary speaks before the first hymn is sung — it says: you are welcome here."

Stewardship & Budget: Phase I at a Glance

From the very beginning, the Sanctuary Refresh Committee has approached this project with careful attention to stewardship, transparency, and the responsible use of available resources. The following Zion Refresh Proposal Brief provides a clear overview of the current project costs, the funds available for sanctuary improvements, and the additional support being provided through congregational giving. Together, these resources allow us to move forward thoughtfully while keeping the scope of the Refresh clearly defined and financially responsible.

ZION REFRESH PROPOSAL BRIEF	
Church Council Approved Budget: \$65,000	
Phase I Sanctuary Priorities	
Area of Improvement	Proposal Amount
Carpet / Flooring	\$21,382
Choir Chairs	\$2,409
Lighting	\$3,208
Organ & Sound Improvements	\$6,800
Sanctuary Total	\$33,799
Memorial Fund: Up to \$40,000 designated for sanctuary improvements.	
Additional Flooring Outside the Sanctuary	
Area of Improvement	Proposal Amount
Flooring (Narthex, Nursery, Choir Room, Hallway)	\$23,389
This portion of the project is to be funded by the congregation.	
Total of Sanctuary and Exterior Sanctuary Improvements	\$57,188
Intent-to-Give Commitments Received	
Church Council Members	\$2,975
Women of Zion	\$5,000

Funding Plan

The committee recommends funding Phase I through a two-part approach that requires no new debt. Approximately \$40,000 is available from existing capital reserve funds designated for facility improvements. The remaining balance will be addressed through a six-month targeted giving campaign beginning after the congregation vote in November 2026. We also anticipate the possibility of matching gifts from designated donors who have expressed interest in supporting this effort. No borrowing is proposed for Phase I.

Proposed Timeline

Phase I is designed to move deliberately and without haste. The following milestones represent the committee's proposed schedule from vote through rededication. Each stage has been planned with care to protect our worship schedule and ensure quality outcomes.

November 2026 — Congregation vote and formal approval of Phase I proposal.

December 2026 – February 2027 — Finalize contractor selection; review and sign all contracts. Committee oversight begins.

January 2027 — Active construction window, timed to coincide with the reduced summer worship schedule for minimal disruption.

March 2027 — Targeted giving campaign concludes; all funds confirmed prior to construction start.

April 2027--?? — Grand Reopening Sunday — Rededication service celebrating the renewed sanctuary and the congregation's faithfulness.

Your Role in This Renewal

This is not a project for the congregation — it is a project of the congregation. Every member has a meaningful role to play, and no contribution is too small. We invite you first to pray for this project: for wisdom in its planning, for generosity in its funding, and for unity in its purpose. Prayer is not a preamble to the real work — it is the most important work.

We also invite you to give to the Phase I Sanctuary Refresh Fund through the targeted campaign that will follow the congregation vote, and to serve by volunteering for non-skilled workdays — moving furnishings, assisting with prep and cleanup, and lending your hands to the effort. Share the vision with friends, neighbors, and prospective members.

Three Ways to Get Involved

- 1. Pray** — Lift up this project in your personal devotions. Ask for wisdom, unity, and provision.
 - 2. Give** — Contribute to the Phase I Sanctuary Refresh Fund through our targeted giving campaign, beginning November 2026.
 - 3. Serve** — Sign up for volunteer workdays. Watch the bulletin and church newsletter for scheduling details.
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