



St. Luke's Mar Thoma Church, Margate, FL

Church Renovation Project:



*This 3D rendering of the renovated building is for visualization purposes only. It is not the final look or appearance.

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We Praise God and sincerely thank each of you for your generosity in supporting our parish's needs in the past. As you may know, the St. Luke's Mar Thoma church building is over 50 years old and is in critical need for improvements. We have not invested in any major improvements since the purchase of the church in 1997. Furthermore, we have reached capacity constraints and are constantly at risk of violating state and local jurisdiction building/fire regulations.

In an effort to address the above needs, we as the church community prayed over this need, discussed various options and chose to move forward with renovating the existing church facility. The church general body approved to actively pursue the renovation project in August 2022. We believe that stepping forward in faith, with this construction effort would give us necessary space to grow our church family and to extend the mission of Christ in our parish.

Over the course of the summer, we engaged a certified engineering firm named ABTECH Engineers Inc., to explore the feasibility of renovating the existing facility. Findings from this assessment suggested that we can only make improvements within the perimeter of the current building layout. Diocese have reviewed these findings/drawings and have approved the below project.



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The planned renovation:

- Remove the existing office/sound system area between the sanctuary and foyer area to extend the space. Build a room on the side of the Madbaha area for clergy use.
- Build a second floor on top of the existing foyer - with hall, office room/s and sound room.
- Raise the roof(new roof) of the entire structure up to 30 ft. and raise floor level by half feet, as per FEMA flood regulation requirements.
- New electrical wiring, plumbing, sound system/wiring, AC units/ducts, kitchen and restrooms will be done as per code. Redo the Madbaha area, floors, interiors and parking lot.

Current Status:

- ABTECH Engineering Inc has completed phase 1 of the high level drawings for architectural floor plans and elevations, as needed for the initial Zoning approval from the City of Margate.
- We now have a preliminary Zoning approval from the City and we need to go for the actual Building Permits. We will be doing the detailed Construction drawings needed for this Approval.
- Our current initial estimates suggest that the cost of this work will be at least \$800,000 and duration of the construction will be approximately 6 months.

Fund Raising:

To make this effort feasible we are targeting to raise upfront, about 80% of the estimated cost from church parish members'/families' donations and through fund raising events for external donations. The remaining 20% will be financed through bank and personal interest free loans.

Immediate Next Steps:

- 1. Get City Building Permits/Approval** - We are in the process of getting the drawings done for this and applying to the City for Permits.
- 2. Construction Cost Quotes** - Once building permits are received, get a formal construction cost estimates/quotes and project duration from multiple construction contractors.
- 3. Fund Raising** - Get commitment from our parish members on the donations to meet our goal. Our Vicar, Rev. David Cherian Achen and the Committee members will be reaching out to you in the upcoming weeks for this purpose.

We request each family to prayerfully commit to do their part to complete the church renovation. God has blessed us tremendously in our lives in multiple ways, let us do the needful to show our love and gratitude, by contributing generously to this effort. This is a golden opportunity to participate in God's work and glorify His name. From our experiences, we know that God will bless us multifold for our contributions.

We need the full support of our current/past members and the benevolence of friends and individuals in our community to help us reach this goal. Kindly keep this endeavor in your daily prayers and looking forward to the prayerful participation of all the members.

Yours in Christ,
Vicar & Committee.
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