

April 22, 1889 Oklahoma Land Run



Sunday, April 28, 1889 First Worship Service

A group of Methodists gathered around a white flag to worship God together in the newly founded "Oklahoma City." This group of people would become known as Tabernacle Methodist Church.



Tabernacle Methodist Church 1889 Charter Members

Rev. W.P. Shaw
Rev. and Mrs. William Bradford
Misses Mattie and Belle Bradford
Dr. C.B. Bradford
Mr. R.Q. Blakeney

Mrs. Thomas Seawell
Miss Mary Seawell
Mrs. M.L. Nix
Miss Alice Nix
Mr. and Mrs. B.N. Woodson

Mrs. C.L. McRay
Dr. and Mrs. Hudson
Mrs. Mabel McRay
Mrs. John Kerfoot

1900

St. Luke's Yearly Budget was \$2,179.

1904

The Tabernacle Church changed its name to St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church South.

1907

Oklahoma Territory became the State of Oklahoma.

1908

St. Luke's moved to a new building at NW 8th and Robinson. The cost of construction was \$90,000.



DAILY OKLAHOMAN - SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1908
EUREKA!! EXCELSIOR!! GOOD NEWS!!

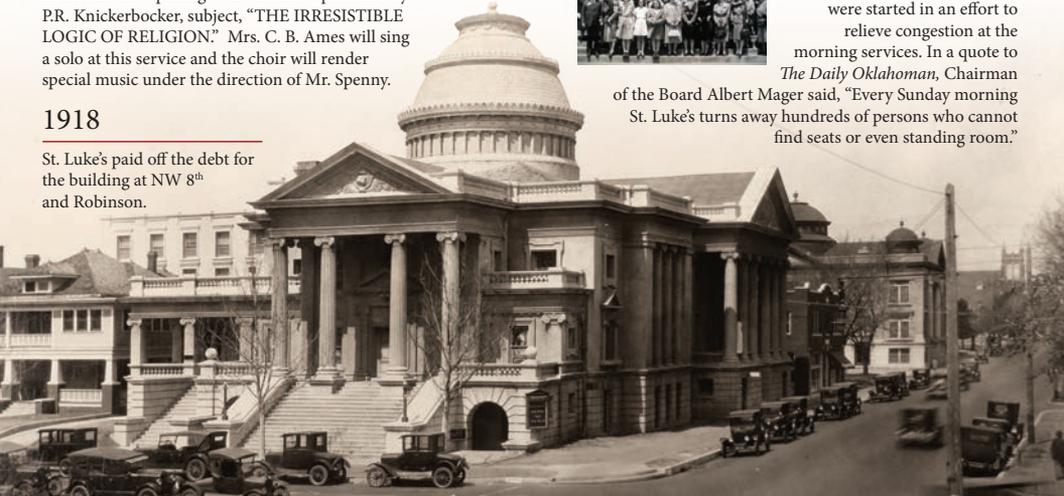
The congregation of St. Luke's will be glad to know that the great new building will be open for services Sunday, May 24th.

The first meeting to be held will be the Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Mr. Ed. S. Vaught, Superintendent, would like to see all of the mothers and fathers – not forgetting to bring the children, from 6 months to 60 years and over.

At 11 a.m. the opening sermon will be preached by Rev. P.R. Knickerbocker, subject, "THE IRRESISTIBLE LOGIC OF RELIGION." Mrs. C. B. Ames will sing a solo at this service and the choir will render special music under the direction of Mr. Spenny.

1918

St. Luke's paid off the debt for the building at NW 8th and Robinson.



1918-1932 Brother Forney Hutchinson

Brother Forney Hutchinson was pastor of St. Luke's from 1918 – 1932. He officiated 1,500 weddings and 800 funerals while membership grew from 1,221 to 4,000.

1921

Some of the second-story rooms were opened up to make room for a balcony extending all around the circular Sanctuary.



1935

Two Sunday morning services were started in an effort to relieve congestion at the morning services. In a quote to *The Daily Oklahoman*, Chairman of the Board Albert Mager said, "Every Sunday morning St. Luke's turns away hundreds of persons who cannot find seats or even standing room."



March 6, 1949
Education Building Groundbreaking



June 18, 1950

St. Luke's moved into the new building at NW 15th and Harvey and Dr. William H. Wallace joyfully preached the first service in the new St. Luke's.



April 22, 1951

Dr. John Peters, an OCU professor and interim preacher, called for meeting the problem of world hunger in his sermon "Let's Deal with Basic Issues," leading to the formation of World Neighbors.



1953

St. Luke's dedicated the education building and paid off the debt. However the plan was to start raising money in 1954 for the Sanctuary with the slogan, "Debt Free in '53. Back for more in '54!"

1951-1964

Dr. W. McFerrin Stowe



Dr. Stowe came from First Methodist Church in Stillwater and helped lead the church in building and moving into the Sanctuary. In 1964, St. Luke's membership was 7,200. He was elected Bishop and assigned to the Kansas area.



May 1, 1955 Sanctuary Groundbreaking



March 3, 1957 Sanctuary Opening

The new \$1.5 million Sanctuary was opened for worship. After Dr. Stowe led the opening prayer in the Narthex, the doors were opened and the crowd surged into the great Sanctuary. They were greeted by the triumphant "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth!" sung by St. Luke's choirs under the direction of Cecil E. Lapo. The congregation sang, "The Church's One Foundation" and listened with reverence as Bishop W. Angie Smith declared the Sanctuary open for worship. 6,700 people attended the three morning services and 1,918 were in Sunday School. 57 new members joined St. Luke's on that special day.



Stained (Art) Glass Windows

Eight great stained (art) glass windows, standing 40 feet high and eight feet wide, add beauty and meaning to the Sanctuary. Each window represents a great figure in the Bible: Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Matthew, Mark, John, and Paul.



Windows by the Bell Tower

There are two sets of windows on each side of the granite central column of the bell tower. The East Window depicts the multiplication of the fish and loaves. The West Window is the story of the vine and the branches.



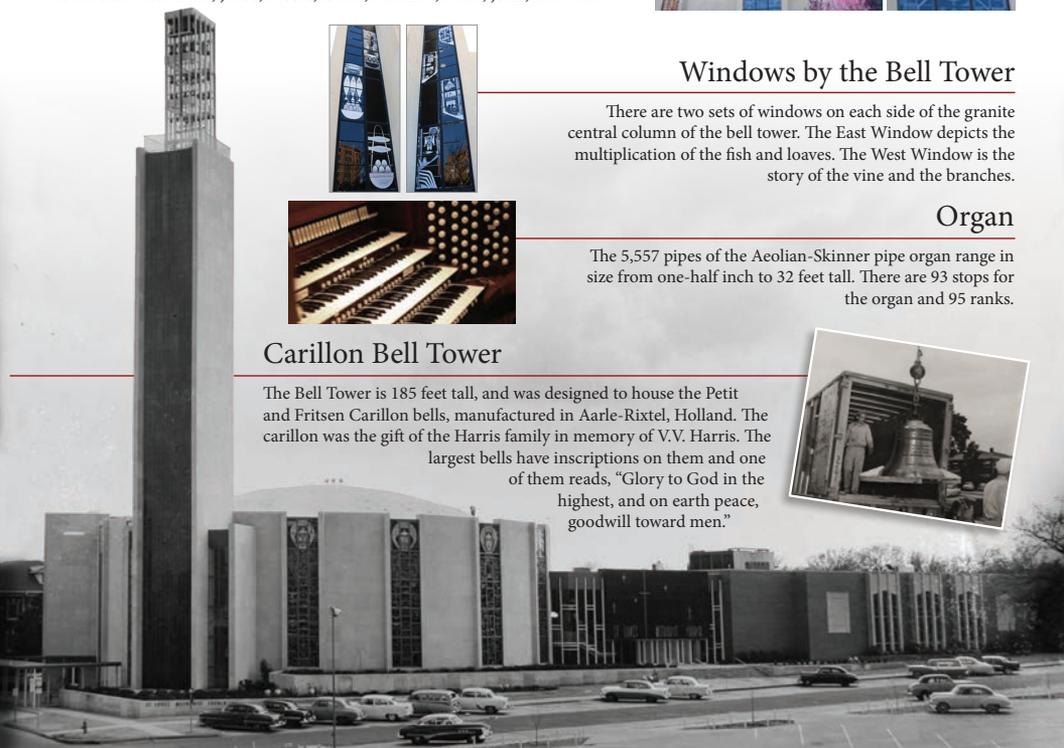
Organ

The 5,557 pipes of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ range in size from one-half inch to 32 feet tall. There are 93 stops for the organ and 95 ranks.



Carillon Bell Tower

The Bell Tower is 185 feet tall, and was designed to house the Petit and Fritsen Carillon bells, manufactured in Aarle-Rixtel, Holland. The carillon was the gift of the Harris family in memory of V.V. Harris. The largest bells have inscriptions on them and one of them reads, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."



1963

St. Luke's School of Continuing Education (Friday School), established by Rev. Joseph T. Shackford, offered classes in many fields of interest for adults, from archaeology to physical fitness, from china painting and ceramics to piano playing and creative writing. At its peak in 1975, there were 70 classes with 1,250 students enrolled.



1963

St. Luke's Art Festival began as a two-week summer event with concerts and artwork.



1969

St. Luke's Children Center opened on May 19, 1969, with 53 children.



1972

The Ladies Aid Society changed their name to the United Methodist Women.

May 6, 1973

The formal Service of Dedication and burning of the Sanctuary mortgage - the Sanctuary was now debt free.

1976

The St. Luke's Foundation was created to encourage members to contribute gifts of cash or property during their lifetime or through estate bequests.

The Archive Room was opened as an officially accredited museum, including books, memorabilia of the church, works of art, and rare Bibles.

1984

Volunteers for Mobile Meals started delivering hot meals for the elderly or any person unable to prepare a balanced meal. This mission continues every Saturday.



1990

Groundbreaking and construction of the Christian Life Center.



June 9, 1991

Dr. Robert E. Long, wife Marsha, daughter Kelly, and son Paul came to St. Luke's from Bear Creek UMC in Houston, TX, which was the 5th fastest growing UMC in the country at that time.



1992

St. Luke's longtime Arts Festival was renamed Summerfest.



St. Luke's was part of the "To Russia With God's Love" project. 40 people from St. Luke's traveled to Ulyanovsk, Russia.



Wednesday Night Alive began, allowing families to meet for food, fellowship, and to grow in their faith during the week.

1995

St. Luke's responded to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, by providing shelter for 300 people who lived at the church for two weeks. More than 4,000 meals were prepared each day in our kitchen.



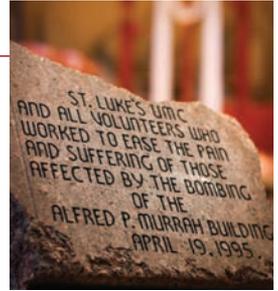
1995

Arts @ St. Luke's was born after a production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* in the Christian Life Center. The Potet Theatre was designed in the basement of the church, allowing for award-winning productions and arts education.



1993

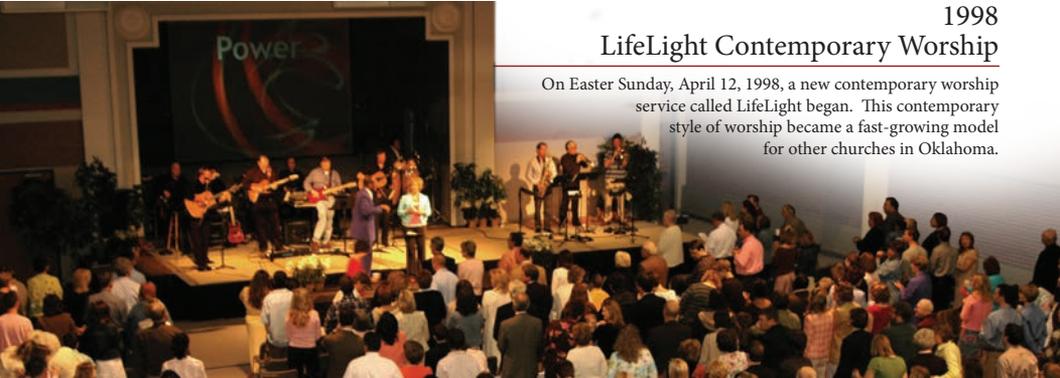
St. Luke's began televising its worship service on Cable TV in 1993 and later moved to KOCO Channel 5 in 1996.



1998

LifeLight Contemporary Worship

On Easter Sunday, April 12, 1998, a new contemporary worship service called LifeLight began. This contemporary style of worship became a fast-growing model for other churches in Oklahoma.



1999

On November 1, 1999, St. Luke's went on the air with radio spots called "Something to Think About."



2001

Hundreds of volunteers labored for three months creating "The Great Adventure" on the 2nd floor of the church. Classrooms were painted and decorated according to each room's theme: Mountain Movers, King's Court, Pyramid Pictures, Cyberworld, The Good News, Jungle Jammin, Jordan's Journey, Paris Plaza and Boom Town.



2004

St. Luke's afterschool program, Studio 222, provides visual and performing arts curriculum as well as leadership and character-building training.



2004

St. Luke's opened the Columbarium, a sacred space for the ashes of loved ones who have entered into life eternal.





2006

The Hefner Mansion was purchased from the Oklahoma Heritage Association and now provides offices and meeting rooms.

2010

St. Luke's started working with Hillcrest/ Fuente de Vida UMC, which later became St. Luke's Fuente de Vida.

2013

Asbury United Methodist Church voted to join St. Luke's, creating the St. Luke's Asbury Campus. With a live worship band and video of the sermon from the Downtown Campus, St. Luke's became a multi-campus church.



2008

The Brown Library was renovated into a coffee shop and bookstore called Threefold, where profits support missions.

2011

The Christian Life Center renovation increased seating and created a permanent stage for LifeLight worship.

2013

St. Luke's helped to start a new afterschool orchestra program for Oklahoma City Schools called El Sistema Oklahoma.



2014

St. Luke's partnered with Rancho Village Elementary to create an afterschool program that focuses on math, reading, and mentoring.

March 30, 2014 Edmond Campus

St. Luke's started a new campus in Edmond at Sequoyah Middle School with 453 in attendance on the first Sunday.



2015

The choir room in the basement of the Sanctuary was remodeled with new flooring, seating, and updated bathrooms.

The children's playgrounds were renovated, creating playgrounds that are one of a kind.

The 2nd floor children's area was renovated to allow for the growth of the Children's Ministry.



November 8, 2015

After rain prevented a groundbreaking ceremony in May and September, a special Beam Signing service was held on the slab of the new worship space.