

Ministry Readiness Case Statement Resurrection Lutheran Academy



The Saints of RLA

Every student who has, is currently, or will walk through the halls of Resurrection Lutheran Academy has been brought to our school by God in order to Grow by the Cross. Our teachers and staff work tirelessly every day to show the light and grace of the Resurrection to each one of our students. This community, which has been planted, nurtured, and grown by the cross and the light of the Resurrection, has seen more families each year wanting to join our family of Saints. In this spirit of our mission, we at RLA feel called to construct more space to enhance the Christ-centered education RLA provides while cultivating spiritual growth and service to God.

Saints History

Resurrection Lutheran Academy was first put on the hearts of a few members at St. Peter Lutheran Church during a Bible study in 1996, which led to the creation of a preschool at Faith Lutheran Church in 1998. In the following years, the growth at RLA allowed us to expand to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran church, each hosting a preschool. As the school continued to flourish, RLA consolidated locations from Our Redeemer to continue adding grades at St. Paul South Bend. Soon, RLA used all of the classrooms the church had to offer and brought in a modular to house all of the students. Then in 2007, the current school building was opened, eventually allowing us to serve students up through 8th grade. It was a long road to get to this point, but God has always guided us on each step of our path. Now RLA is in its 26th academic year, with 119 students in preschool-8th grade, and preparing for the blessing of even more students next year and in the years to come.

Discerning our Present Need

Due to the location of Resurrection Lutheran Academy, the growth of the area, and the world around us moving away from Christ, an unprecedented number of families are trusting RLA to educate their children. Our school has been blessed with increased enrollment, which is stretching our capacity in various ways. Our school, our principal and our staff have done the best they can with the space they have, which includes using the hallway and sometimes closets when necessary. Therefore, as we look around, we see a need for the following kinds of enhancements to maintain our higher standard of quality education:

- Provide space to separate all grades into individual classrooms, giving more time for our students to learn in a faith-based school
- Give teachers the resources they need, to be able to best serve all students who want to grow by the cross at RLA
- Provide a space for student to receive individualized instruction to meet our students' increasing needs

Discerning a Solution

Now, we Saints are called to steward the mission of RLA. Whether you are one of the Saints who is generous, a leader or a prayer warrior, we ask you to join us on the path God has laid before us. This vision cannot be realized without you! We trust that through prayerful giving, strategic ministry initiatives, and partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community organizations, this enhancement will grow the kingdom of God.

Through the tireless work of our expansion committee, we have arrived at an optimal target project that would add on 12,000 sq. ft. with an anticipated cost of \$3,500,000 that consists of:

- Separating 5th/6th and 7th/8th grades which will allow them to be taught individually
- Creating a resource room, which will give our students who need extra attention a place to go instead of receiving that help on the floor in the hallway
- A proper music room for a music program to continue to grow and thrive
- A teacher lounge which would give the staff a much needed place to rest and prepare while at RLA
- Expanding our kitchen to add heating elements to be able to provide more meals to our students and be a better destination for rentals in the future.
- A Cafeteria for students to be able to eat together and not in their classrooms
- To accommodate the additional students, we will need another set of bathrooms

Our goal is to have the project completed and ready for the 2026/2027 school year. To meet this timeline we would need to break ground this fall of 2025.

Our Process

In order to discern whether we can meet this target, we have invited in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), a nationally recognized leader in growth and financial solutions. Over the next few weeks, LCEF will partner with us to assess our prospective enrollment growth as well as our financial capacity.

Our Invitation

This is where YOU come in. LCEF can help us gather the information. But ultimately it is YOU we need to hear from—each of our supporters and potential donors. What has God equipped *us* to achieve, together?

Accordingly, we are planning three key ways you can register your response and potential commitment:

- Forums: Join a group meeting where we'll share our vision, hear your thoughts, and collaborate on shaping this project for God's glory.
- A Survey: Take a quick, 15-minute online survey that provides valuable ministry insights through our trusted partners at The Lutheran Church Extension Fund.
- Interviews: You may receive a personal call for a one-on-one interview with our ministry readiness partners —your voice matters!

Our Prayer

We pray that you will engage in this process as God guides us in the next steps for our school. We ask for your passion, discernment, and commitment as RLA takes this important step forward, so that through its mission, more students and families will come to know Christ's love and be led into the grace and light of the Resurrection. Most importantly, we pray for you—that you remember how loved, valued, and appreciated you are. God has placed our school exactly where it needs to be, planting children at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. Now more than ever, families are seeking alternative school options through choice vouchers and scholarship opportunities, and Resurrection Lutheran Academy remains dedicated to ministering to its students and educating them in Christ, planting them in the assurance of His Resurrection. We will continue to follow His command to let the little children come to Him and know Him. Everyone has a role in this mission. Whether you are called to be generous, to lead, or to be a prayer warrior, we invite you to join us in answering God's call for Resurrection Lutheran Academy. With your prayers, gifts, and support, we can create a space that will minister to and educate students in Christ for generations to come.