



*Attachment to the notice of appeal against the decree of the
'Congregatio pro Cleris' of 10 august 2021 (Prot. N. 2021 3173)*

'About repurposing the Saint Lucia Church in Ravenstein'

The vision of Stichting
Loterijfonds Ravenstein

Dr. C.G.M. Verhoeckx

Secretary Loterijfonds Ravenstein





The message

- The Loterijfonds sees St. Lucia Church as irreplaceable social cultural and religious heritage
- It wants to preserve the church as a church for future generations and also use it for worthy secondary use



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De beste oplossing: kerk blijft kerk - Interview met directeur RCE



Tekst: Kees Posthumus | Beeld: Kerkmagazine

(Dit is de verkorte versie van het interview dat verscheen in *Kerkmagazine*, juni 2021.)

In een interview met Susan Lammers, algemeen directeur van de Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE), geeft zij haar voorkeursrol voor kerkgebouwen aan: 'De aller-, allerbeste oplossing is wanneer de kerk in gebruik blijft als kerk'. *Kerkmagazine* sprak met haar en met Frank Strolenberg, programmaleider Toekomst Religieus Erfgoed bij de RCE.

Kerkmagazine, augustus 2021



Situation: two visions

- The parish council wants to sell and repurpose the Saint Lucia Church
- As a result, the church is to be deconsecrated by the bishop
- The Stichting Ergoed Lucia Ravenstein presents itself as a buyer and mainly focuses on commercial activities, in addition to social and cultural activities
- The Loterijfonds Ravenstein exclusively opts for a combination of social, cultural and religious activities

"Church buildings are more than just a physical enclosure. They are about more than the mundane. They lift us up as humanity" (Kerkgebouwen, Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, 2020)

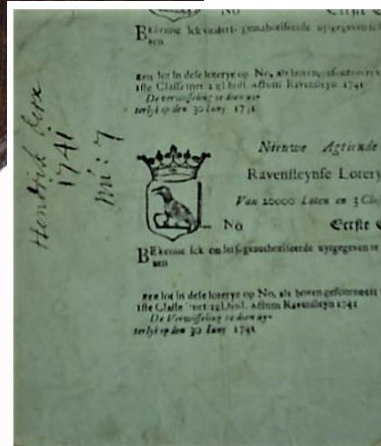


Loterijfonds Ravenstein

- Anno 1729
- Recognized as Dutch Immaterial Heritage
- From a social vision legally subservient to the church and the parishioners of the former Saint Lucia parish
- The Saint Lucia Church was born from the proceeds of the 'Ravensteinsche Lotterie'

A close bond between church and Loterijfonds for 300 years:

- Sponsoring priests
- Sponsoring Latin School, French school and Technical school
- Charity (to this day)



Saint Lucia Church: not just any church

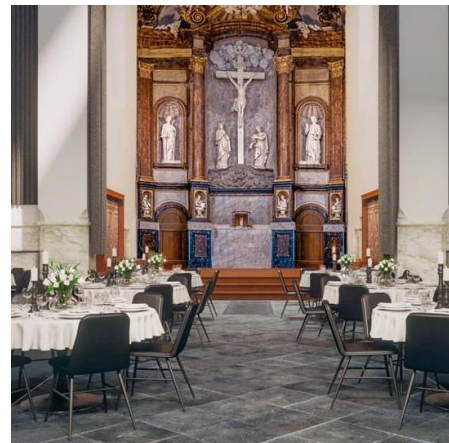
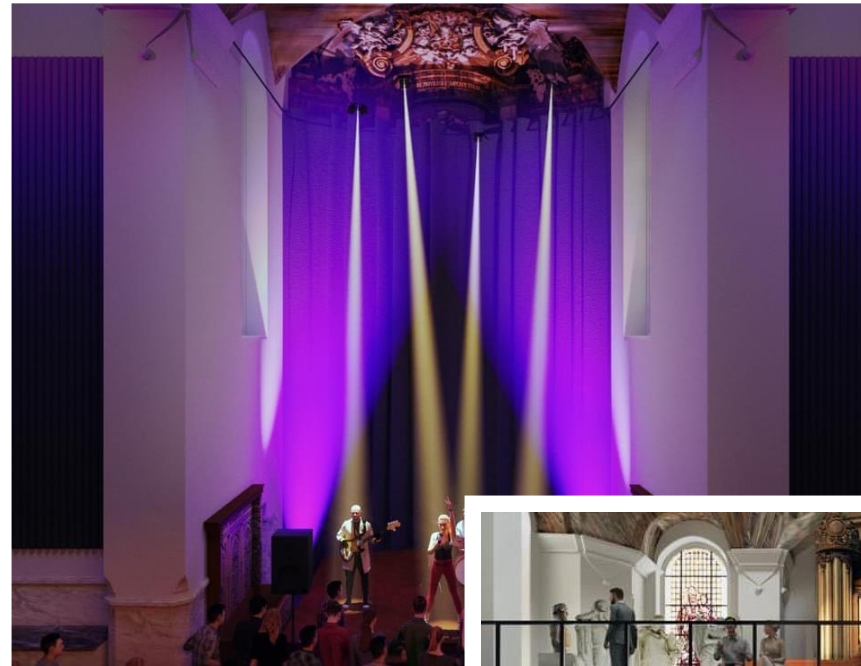
- Monumental heritage church in the center of the Land of Ravenstein. Unique baroque construction and decoration. Almost 300 years old (1735)
- Important link in the counter-reformation policy of Elector Karl III Philipp von Neuburg. A beacon of Catholic faith in a hostile Protestant environment
- Unique and valuable art collection based on gifts and donations and important devotional culture
- The church building and the art objects inextricably linked to it together form a national monument. It's about the combination



There is no "pastoral, devotional or art-historical necessity," the bishop wrote.
A historical mistake!

What does the Loterijfonds not want?

- A Lucia Church that is, in our view, **violated**, which is no longer a church and has been transformed into an event location. This is expected to result in irreversible damage to the sacred monumental character
- So **no** (see policy plan SELR):
 - Private dining
 - Movie
 - Theatre/dance
 - Festivities
 - Silent disco
 - Horeca



Source: Facebook Lucia Ravenstein



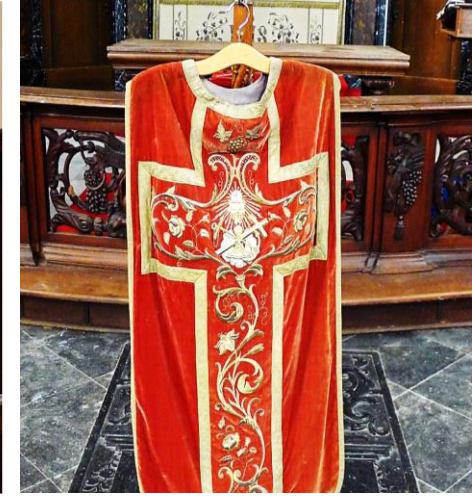
What does the Loterijfonds want?

- To preserve the Saint Lucia Church as valuable heritage for Ravenstein. A place where religious and cultural activities go together with dignity.
- So yes
 - Walk in (open daily), eucharist, baptism, wedding, burial
 - Education (schools), home base for choirs, harmony, liturgical work group, etc.
 - Reli- and heritage tourism (in collaboration with TIR, catering, Ambachtelijk Ravenstein, Jan Cunen, Krona, Cultuurwerkgroep, etc.)
 - Exhibitions / symposia / information / music and concerts

"The church attendance is declining, but what remains is the need to be able to be somewhere in silence for a while, to light a candle" (Kerkmagazine, august 2021)

Why preserve Saint Lucia as social heritage?

- *"To give continuity to the important things in our lives. To give our future a past."* (Kerkgebouwen, Rijksdienst voor cultureel erfgoed, 2020)
- Due to its special history and cultural wealth, the Saint Lucia Church is such a place where past, present and future come together.
- It is up to our generation to handle this with care.



"The choices we make today determine which world our children and grandchildren inherit" (Bill Gates, 2021)

Indicative annual budget

The preservation of the Saint Lucia Church is a joint effort of the people of Ravenstein, the users of the church and the government



Costs	€	Benefits	€
Organization/administration	6.000	Ravensteinse Loterij 2.0	10.000
Insurance/levies	5.000	Sponsors	10.000
Energy	10.000	Donations of friends	10.000
Cleaning	4.000	Subsidy for the conservation of monuments (SIM scheme)	10.000
Regular maintenance	5.000	User fee (Eucharist, marriage, burial, lectures, symposia, etc.)	10.000
(reservation) major maintenance	20.000	Toerism: guided tours, schoolvisits, entrance fees, etc.	5.000
Promotion	2.500		
Amortization	2.500		
Total	55.000	Total	55.000



The win for Ravenstein

- The Saint Lucia Church remains a church, a place of reflection, faithful to its rich past
- With a strong social function. *'From, for and by Ravenstein'*
- A church that is a valuable addition to the religious, cultural and tourist offer in Ravenstein
- And thus a reinforcement of the liveability of Ravenstein as a craft and cultural town on the banks of the river Maas



Assurance

- This vision offers the greatest certainty that the future of the St. Lucia Church as valuable heritage is safeguarded for many years to come.
- Sustainable ownership and management is essential in this regard
- The Loterijfonds Ravenstein is prepared to make an active contribution to this.

"A church is a space for receptivity. When you step in, whether you are a believer or not, you are taken into space, you step into another dimension. You lose the sense of time and place. That has a value in itself that you don't have in other buildings' (Kerkmagazine, August 2021)





What now?

- The Loterijfonds will appeal to the Apostolic Signature
- Supervision by the municipality of compliance with the heritage law to maintain the Lucia Church as a monument
- Ravensteiners, join forces and stand up for our Saint Lucia Church. Together we are strong
- Send an email, letter or postcard to the Loterijfonds for support:
 - www.loterijfondsravenstein.info
 - Email: info@loterijfondsravenstein.nl
 - Address: Loterijfonds Ravenstein, p/a Sultzbachstraat 11, 5371 ES Ravenstein