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## **NEWS**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit adds patient beds**

*Major expansion project nears completion, allows for advanced services*

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. – Less than three years after opening, Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit is nearing completion on a \$51.7 million expansion. Today, the hospital will open 30 additional patient beds—bringing the total number of patient beds to 87.

“The hospital was built on an infrastructure to accommodate expansion,” said George Pagels, M.D., Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit Chief Executive Officer. “But we thought that expansion would take place in about two years. This is a testament to how welcoming the Lee's Summit community has been to us.”

While Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit had to overcome many obstacles on its way to being built, the challenge since the hospital opened has been to have enough beds to meet the community demand.

“I recall time after time we were told there was no need for additional hospital beds in Lee's Summit,” said G. Richard Hastings, president and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System. “But we weren't open six months and our beds were already full, and we're so proud to be able to provide additional health care services for the Lee's Summit area.”

The 30 new beds will be medical/surgical beds allowing the current medical/surgical beds to be adapted into additional telemetry and maternity beds. Space has also been shelled in on the new patient floor for an additional 30 patient rooms, allowing the hospital even more growth opportunities in the future.

“This expansion is exciting for many reasons,” said Gloria Solis, M.S.N., chief nursing/operating officer at Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit. “Not only are we going to

be able to care for more patients, but we are also going to be able to broaden our scope of services.”

One example is that beginning today, Saint Luke’s East-Lee’s Summit will now provide 24/7 cardiac catheterization services. This means patients who arrive at the Emergency Department will be able to receive immediate care without having to leave their community. Elective cardiac procedures are also being extended from three days a week to five days a week.

**Additional changes on the horizon**

In addition to the added patient rooms, the Saint Luke’s East-Lee’s Summit campus will also see more changes soon. Later this month the Emergency Department will be expanded by six beds, and later this fall two new operating rooms will be opened. The final component of this expansion will be finished next year with the opening of a dedicated cardiac catheterization lab in February 2009.

Also included in this major expansion project was the addition of a second floor to the Outpatient Surgery Center and two additional parking lots, both completed in 2007.

*Saint Luke’s East–Lee’s Summit is part of Saint Luke’s Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and a number of primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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