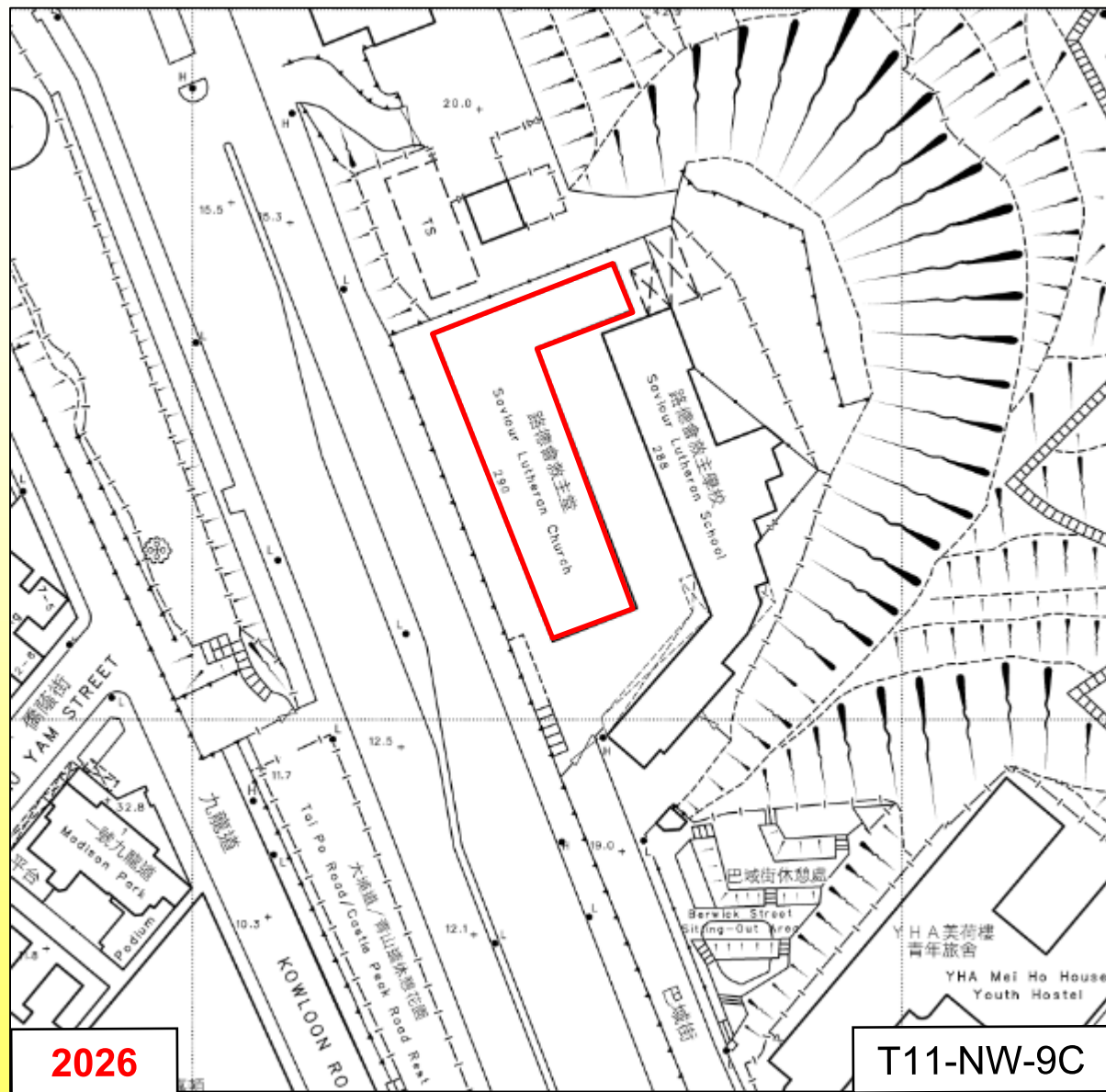


N108

九龍深水埗大埔道**290**號路德會救主堂
**Saviour Lutheran Church, No. 290 Tai Po Road,
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon**

擬議二級歷史建築
Proposed Grade 2

建於1967年
Built in 1967



— 擬議評級範圍
Proposed grading boundary

只用於識別位置，並非確實範圍 For identification of location only, not exact boundary



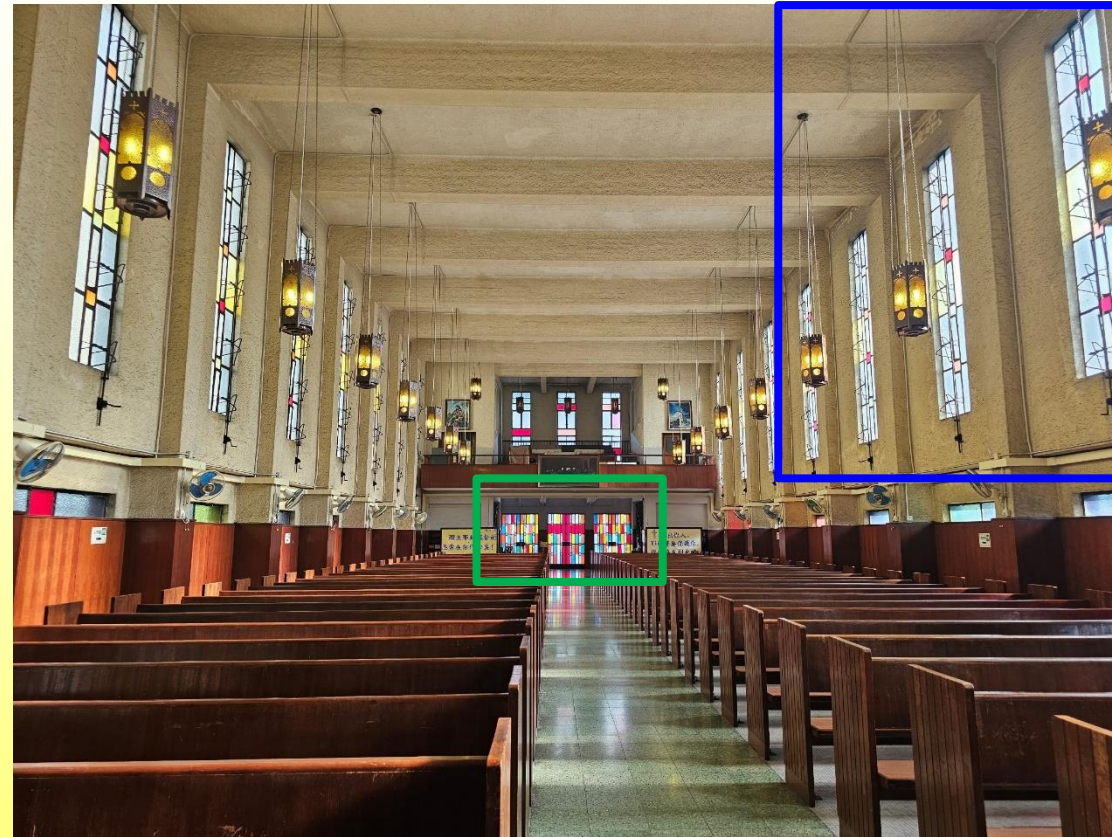
正立面
Front elevation
2026
(Source: AMO)



西北（上）及東南（下）側立面
North-west (above) and south-east (below) side elevations
2026
(Source: AMO)



三扇彩色門，中門鑲嵌紅色十字架圖案
Triple portal entrance with coloured panes displaying a red cross in the middle



內部
Interior

2026
(Source: AMO)



粗灰泥批盪牆身、彩色窗及裝飾吊燈
Walls with roughcast plaster, colourful window panes and ornamental lanterns

Historic Building Appraisal
Saviour Lutheran Church
No. 290 Tai Po Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

Located on New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 4456, Saviour Lutheran Church (路德會救主堂) is among Hong Kong's post-war churches, and was established by the present-day Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (香港路德會) ("LCHKS"). It is the church building for the earliest congregation (堂會), the Saviour Lutheran congregation (救主堂), founded by Lutheran missionaries in Hong Kong.¹ **Historical Interest**

LCHKS originated from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (美國路德會) ("LCMS"), a Christian denomination based in the United States that began its evangelical work in Chinese Mainland as early as 1913 under the name Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Hong Kong & Macau Mission (中華福音道路德會).² In 1949, missionaries including Rev. Wilbert Holt (何傳捷牧師), Deaconess Gertrude Simon (西門英才教士), Deaconess Martha S. Boss (包美達教士), and Deaconess Lorraine Behling (白樂雲教士)³ left Chinese Mainland. They originally planned to return to the United States, but as they passed through Hong Kong, they saw a massive influx of immigrants in need of urgent relief. Choosing to remain, they devoted themselves to serving these communities. Shortly after settling in Hong Kong, the missionaries founded the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Hong Kong Mission (美國路德會香港分會) ("LCMSHKM") in the early 1950s,⁴ which became the forerunner of today's LCHKS.⁵

In the 1950s, the Lutheran missionaries focused primarily on providing medical services and education, alongside their core evangelical work. They began their efforts at Rennie's Mill (now known as Tiu King Leng),⁶ and later expanded to Shek Kip Mei and Sham Shui Po.⁷ During its founding period, they did not have a

¹ Lutheran Church. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service. 40th Anniversary of Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod. Hong Kong: Lutheran Church. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, 1989.

² "History", The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, <https://www.lutheran.org.hk/en/introduction/history/> (accessed on 27 October 2025).

³ 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》(香港：路德會救主堂，1980年)，頁 58。

⁴ LCMSHKM was also translated as 福音道路德會香港分會 when it was founded in Hong Kong during its early stage. See HKRS306-10-51. "Savior Lutheran Mission (Church)", 3 October 1954 to 14 July 1971, encl. 22.

⁵ LCMSHKM was renamed LCHKS in 1976 and became an independent synod from LCMS, but still maintains a partnership with the LCMS. See 〈港路德會成立 選出首屆職員〉，《華僑日報》，1976年4月29日；Lutheran Church. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service. 40th Anniversary of Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod. Hong Kong: Lutheran Church. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, 1989.

⁶ 梁家麟：《福音與麵包—基督教在五十年代的調景嶺》(香港：建道神學院基督教與中國文化研究中心，2000年)，頁 82-85。"History", The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, <https://www.lutheran.org.hk/en/introduction/history/> (accessed on 27 October 2025).

⁷ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 17 September 2023

permanent building and instead rented various premises to host fellowship meetings and worship services. The first Sunday service was held at a rented site, 香江中學 (literally translated as “Hong Kong Secondary School”), located at No. 70 Tai Po Road.⁸

In October 1950, the first Lutheran congregation in Hong Kong, the Saviour Lutheran congregation was founded. Initially, services were held in rented premises at No. 232 Tai Po Road,⁹ but the congregation relocated to No. 53 Tai Po Road in 1963 after the landlord repossessed the property for redevelopment.¹⁰ Worship continued at this location until the completion of the permanent church building at the current site, No. 290 Tai Po Road. In fact, plans to acquire a permanent site had been drawn up as early as 1954, prompted by the lack of sufficient space for the growing congregation.¹¹ The mission appealed to the Government for a plot of land for a new church, and subsequently, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 4456, i.e. the present site where Saviour Lutheran Church is located, was granted in 1961 for a premium of \$182,000.¹² The construction costs were borne primarily by the Hong Kong Mission, supplemented by funds and donations raised from congregation members.¹³ However, due to significant delays in site formation works, the church building was not completed until late 1967.¹⁴ The dedication ceremony was held on 26 November 1967,¹⁵ and the occupation permit was issued in July 1968.¹⁶

LCHKS first began its mission work in Hong Kong by evangelising on the streets and holding Bible reading classes.¹⁷ As the number of believers grew,

with senior members of the Saviour Lutheran Church.

⁸ 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 58。

⁹ 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 58。

¹⁰ 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 63。

¹¹ 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 58。

¹² Conditions of Grant: New Kowloon Inland Lot. No. 4456 (Land Office, 17 March 1961).

¹³ HKRS306-10-51. “Savior Lutheran Mission (Church)”, 3 October 1954 to 14 July 1971, encl. 38 ; Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 17 September 2023 with senior members of the Saviour Lutheran Church ; 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 62-63；〈救主堂青年團契 公演「樑上佳人」〉，《華僑日報》，1963年2月15日。

¹⁴ 路德月報編輯委員會：《路德月報》（香港：路德月報編輯委員會，1962年，第 88-89 期）；路德月報編輯委員會：《路德月報》（香港：路德月報編輯委員會，1967年，第 146 期）。

¹⁵ As shown on the memorial plaque erected at the front elevation of the Saviour Lutheran Church；〈路德會大埔道救主堂 新堂奉獻典禮 康乃樂牧師主持開幕〉，《工商日報》，1967年11月27日；路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》（香港：路德會救主堂，1980年），頁 64。

¹⁶ Occupation Permit No. NK 62/68 (Building Authority, 8 July 1968).

¹⁷ “History”, The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, <https://www.lutheran.org.hk/en/introduction/history/> (accessed on 27 October 2025).

congregations were established in various districts. Today, there are 35 congregations operating under LCHKS across Hong Kong.¹⁸

Saviour Lutheran Church was designed by Chien Nai Jen (錢乃仁) and Lamb Ping Yin (林炳賢).¹⁹ Chien, an architect who, like the Lutheran missionaries, came to Hong Kong after 1949, was also involved in designing another post-war church project in Sham Shui Po, namely St. Francis of Assisi Church.²⁰ Lamb, on the other hand, was a native of Hong Kong. In addition to church buildings, he contributed to the design of many post-war residential properties, most notably Chungking Mansions in Tsim Sha Tsui.²¹

*Architectural
Merit*

Construction of Saviour Lutheran Church began in January 1967 and was completed in November of the same year.²² The building stands on a platform nearly seven metres above Tai Po Road, supported by concrete and masonry retaining walls. It is accessible via a flight of steps from Tai Po Road or by going up Berwick Street to its uphill end. The building features an L-shaped plan, with the long arm housing the church and the short arm containing the vicarage and church office annex.

The entrance and side elevations of the church showcase vertical rectilinear concrete grids in the upper portion, fitted with coloured windows extensively framed by green mosaic tiles. The entrance façade facing Berwick Street is rendered with Shanghai plaster and features a triple portal entrance, symbolising the Holy Trinity, with an extended entrance porch. When closed, the entrance doors reveal the full and vivid effect of their coloured panes, with a prominently displayed red cross on the central door. Below the window bays along the side elevations are rows of narrow horizontal windows, protected from the elements by a continuous projecting ledge. A tower topped with a white cross rises from the southwest corner of the front elevation, and like the exterior wall of the church hall, it is adorned with coloured windows surrounded by green mosaic tiles. Corrugated roofing sheets have been installed on top of the original roof and a skylight has been cut into the corrugated

¹⁸ “Churches & Mission Stations”, The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, <https://www.lutheran.org.hk/en/evangelism/churchers-mission-stations/#1729840250124-76402a15-f8f1af7f-d60a> (accessed on 30 October 2025).

¹⁹ Building Records Access and Viewing On-line, Buildings Department. N.K.I.L. 4456 Tai Po Road - Proposed New Primary School & Church. 1963-1967. Architectural drawing; 路德月報編輯委員會：《路德月報》(香港：路德月報編輯委員會，1967年，第153期)。

²⁰ Fukushima, Ayako “Building St. Francis of Assisi Church and School in Hong Kong: Emergence of Church and School Complex in the 1950s”, J. Archit. Plann., AIJ, Vol. 85 No. 768, Feb., 2020, pp. 453-462.

²¹ “Pioneering Paulines - Professor Lamb Ping Yin 林炳賢教授 (1901–1986)”, Heritage 承傳保羅, https://heritage.spc.edu.hk/90_alumni_story_details.php?id=20&cms_menu_id=117 (accessed on 28 October 2025).

²² 路德會救主堂：《香港路德會救主堂三十周年堂慶紀念特刊》，香港：路德會救主堂，1980年，頁64。

roof above the cross behind the altar, fitted with a clear window to allow sunlight to flood in and illuminate the cross. The roofing sheets slant towards the courtyard side, where rainwater runoff is collected by eaves gutters and drained away through a series of vertical downpipes affixed to the columns.

The interior of the church is a lofty, rectangular space supported by a row of reinforced concrete frames resembling portals. At the northeast end, beneath a soaring ceiling, the altar stands on a raised platform with a large illuminated cross mounted on the wall behind it. Projecting wings on either side house an organ room and a sacristy. At the southwest end, a first-floor gallery is accessible from either side via simple, unadorned staircases. The nave, which accommodates around 500 people, is arranged in two rows of plain wooden pews separated by a central aisle with aisles on each side of the nave. While the lower portion of the walls is lined with wooden panelling, the upper portion is finished with roughcast plaster. The floor is paved with green marble tiles along the central aisle and mosaic tiles beneath the pews. Two rows of lanterns bearing cross symbols are suspended along the walls from long chains attached to the ceiling, echoing the design of lanterns found in other Lutheran churches in Hong Kong.²³ The lanterns are both ornamental and functional, serving as the church's main source of light. They work alongside the coloured windows, whose original opening devices such as handles and straight rods remain intact, allowing sunlight to filter in. On the southeast elevation facing Tai Po Road, the wall leading up to the tower was thoughtfully designed with rows of glass bricks, enabling sunlight to enter both the church and the tower from that direction, while vertical sunshades reduce the amount of heat penetrating the building.

Adjoining the church is a two-storey annex located in the short arm of the L-shaped building, connected via a door to the sacristy. The ground floor houses a conference room and an office, while the first floor serves as the vicarage. The annex's exterior is finished in plain white, subtly accented by window lintels and sills. A staircase leads up to the flat roof of the annex, which is separate from the church's roof.

Saviour Lutheran Church has retained a high level of authenticity in its physical fabric, and neither its exterior nor interior has undergone much change over the years. A major modification is the addition of corrugated roofing sheets above the original flat roof, to help cool the interior, as the church building is not fitted with air conditioning. Careful thought was given in the design to include a clear window above the cross and altar that allow sunlight to filter through. The fitting of the

***Authenticity
& Rarity***

²³ "Architect designs three Lutheran buildings – two completed at cost of \$1,000,000" Hong Kong and Far East Builder, Vol.18 No.6, April 1964.

corrugated roofing sheets was also carefully planned so they can be reversible without damaging the building or the original flat roof. Although some modern updates have been made to the annex building, such as the replacement of windows and the addition of air conditioners, the interior remains largely authentic, retaining its original flooring, mosaic tiles on the staircases and wooden handrail. No other significant alterations have been identified that might compromise the authenticity of the building. As an example of post-war church architecture in Hong Kong, the building is among the earliest surviving stand-alone church buildings of LCHKS that remains in use today.

As a religious venue that holds regular church services, Saviour Lutheran Church offers spiritual support to its congregation, most of whom are local residents. Some members previously lived in the Shek Kip Mei resettlement area but had to relocate when those estates were demolished.²⁴ As one of the two stand-alone large-scale church buildings of LCHKS in Kowloon,²⁵ Saviour Lutheran Church serves as a major venue for joint religious activities with other congregations of the synod. It is also a licensed place of worship authorised to celebrate marriages²⁶ and has hosted many wedding ceremonies for Christian couples over the decades.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

In addition to serving the Christian population, the Lutheran mission has played a significant role in providing social services. The large influx of immigrants to Hong Kong in the 1950s spurred the development of numerous social service organisations, many of which were faith-based. Established during this period, LCMSHKM focused its efforts on areas with rapidly expanding populations, initially in Rennie's Mill and later in Shek Kip Mei and Sham Shui Po. Although the Government released a white paper titled "*Aims and Policy for Social Welfare in Hong Kong*" in 1965, the provision of social services at the time still heavily relied on non-government organisations. Hence, LCMSHKM offered social services through its network of churches and schools. In line with its mission to serve society, the Saviour Lutheran Church in the 1970s provided students from nearby resettlement estates with a place to study and revise.²⁷ As Saviour Lutheran Church was built

²⁴ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 17 September 2023 with senior members of the Saviour Lutheran Church.

²⁵ The other one is Redemption Lutheran Church in Wong Tai Sin, completed in 1971; Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 17 September 2023 with senior members of the Saviour Lutheran Church; "Churches & Mission Stations", The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod, <https://www.lutheran.org.hk/en/evangelism/churchers-mission-stations/#1729840250124-76402a15-f8f1af7f-d60a> (accessed on 30 October 2025).

²⁶ 〈已獲特許可舉行婚禮的禮拜場所(按英文字母的次序排列)(截至二零二五年八月十五止)〉, 香港特別行政區政府入境事務處, <https://www.immd.gov.hk/pdf/licensedmarriages.pdf> (2025年10月28日瀏覽)。

²⁷ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 6 October 2023 with principal / pastor, teachers and workmen of the Saviour Lutheran School.

adjacent to Saviour Lutheran School,²⁸ their management is somewhat intertwined. The school regularly uses the church building not only for ceremonial events but also for lessons, such as ethics and religious studies. In addition, the church building also hosts joint-school functions for other schools under LCHKS.²⁹ The roles played by the church in the local community, together with its prominent location on Tai Po Road, have made it a local landmark.

Historic buildings near the Saviour Lutheran Church include the Former North Kowloon Magistracy (Grade 2), Mei Ho House (Grade 2), the Building of The Garden Company, Limited (Grade 2) and St. Francis of Assisi Church (Grade 1), another post-war church designed by Chien Nai Jen. *Group Value*

²⁸ The lot N.K.I.L. 4456, which was granted in 1961, covers an area of 25,000 sq. ft., in which 13,000 sq. ft. was assigned for the church. The rest of the area was assigned for the school, which was completed in 1968, with an expansion in 2004.

²⁹ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 6 October 2023 with principal / pastor, teachers and workmen of the Saviour Lutheran School.

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