



# HEALTH CARE



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## HOSPITAL UPGRADES

# St. Alexius buys land for \$2 million for expansion

**S**t. Alexius is gearing up for a makeover. Instead of renewing another long-term lease, St. Alexius Hospital officials decided to purchase \$2 million worth of land and some of the buildings it already occupies on various properties in South St. Louis County. The purchase is the first step to revive the hospital and to add new service lines, said St. Alexius CEO Michael Motte.

Plans call for remodeling nearly 17,000 square feet of space on the third floor of the Lutheran Hospital on its Jefferson Campus at 2639 Miami Street in St. Louis. At the moment, the Lutheran Hospital building – about 352,000 square feet in total – is being used for outpatient psychiatric services and adult day care, but is largely unused.

Hospital officials plan to transform it into the Jefferson Psychiatric Institute, a \$2.6 million investment to first make room for 78 inpatient psychiatric beds on the third floor. Fifty-four of those beds will be moved from the main hospital at its Broadway campus. Moving the psych beds from its main campus, at 3933 South Broadway



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*“The acquisition is allowing St. Alexius to upgrade to all boutique private rooms and create a new psychiatric institute.”*

**MICHAEL MOTTE,**  
CEO, St. Alexius Hospital

in St. Louis, will allow St. Alexius’ to begin converting the main campus into a “boutique” hospital with all private rooms, a move hospital officials have been pursu-

ing for several years.

The purchase also allows Motte to continue his strategy of expanding the hospital’s reach by adding targeted services lines, a progression the hospital started in late 2012 with the addition of its NewStart program focused on surgical weight management programs, comprehensive orthopedic care and plastic surgery services.

Within the past few months, Motte and his team have created a new branded program: PrimaryCare Now, which is the hospital’s first primary care group. To grow its patient volume, Motte has created a “hybrid” urgent care. Walk-ins are welcome at the medical office on the Jefferson Campus, but patients usually can see a primary care doctor the same day. It’s part of a larger effort to make sure patients have a primary care home.

So far, Motte has hired four nurse practitioners to run PrimaryCare Now.

St. Alexius is owned by Florida-based Success Healthcare, St. Alexius reported revenue of \$76 million for 2012.