



We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.



Beloved in Christ,

Did you know that on most Sundays over 75 church volunteers are involved in making worship happen at LM? Even more on festival Sundays.

In my experience this type of mutual ministry is remarkable, a characteristic that truly makes Luther Memorial special. I'm not the mushy type, but this "holy chaos" (to quote Jon Enslin) of parishioners bustling around on a Sunday morning never fails to move me.

What are the moments that touch you here at Luther Memorial? Is it some aspect of the liturgy? Is it found in friendship? Is it an architectural detail that inspires? Do you feel it most when helping someone in need or one who is hurting? Is it the study of the Word? Baking brownies? Is it the installation of a new pastor? Perhaps you feel it when visiting the columbarium, attending a baptism, or singing a favorite hymn? Maybe you are drawn to meetings, energized by planning, deciding, and dreaming?

I know one certain person (the one I'm married to) who loves to raise scaffolding with a dedicated (fearless!) crew of women and men charged with changing light bulbs in the nave. Caring for the church in this way, he says, connects him to earlier caretakers who ensured the building would outlive them.

Maybe it's found in offering a cup of water. I learned from one of our longtime ushers how this simple gesture of hospitality can provide a moment of comfort to a grieving visitor. That moment stays with me.

What are the moments that touch you here at Luther Memorial? **When does your heart stir?** What energizes you? I love to ask these questions during fall stewardship because the answers are so important. To notice. To treasure.



That which touches you at Luther Memorial draws you more deeply into our shared ministry, making us all keepers of God's mission in this time and place.

This year, I have the joy and privilege of asking you to support the work and life of our congregation by making a financial pledge for 2017. Your sustaining gift is essential to keeping Luther Memorial vibrant.

Please take some time to prayerfully consider what is possible for your household. If you are able to increase your pledge from last year, our target goal for 2017 is to raise pledged income by 4%.

I am blessed to work and serve among you, and through your actions and stories be touched by each of you—signs of God's gracious love.



Suelyn

Suelyn Swiggum
Director of Shared Ministry

Dear Building Fund supporter,

Since the creation of the annual building fund in 2009, you've helped raise over 1.3 million dollars. Your generous contributions have funded much needed building projects, emergency repairs, and debt reduction. This is so amazing! Thank you for your dedicated care and preservation of our beautiful church building.

As you consider your pledge for 2017, remember that next spring our congregation plans to launch a three-year capital appeal to support Phase 1 of our building renovation.

As part of this 2017-2019 appeal, we intend to retire the congregation's existing debt including the current mortgage. In preparation, **we are closing our current building fund at the end of 2016. Regular maintenance and repair expenses will be shifted from the building fund into the 2017 operating fund.**

How might these decisions impact you?

If you usually contribute to both operating and building, **please consider combining your annual building and operating pledges into one single operating pledge for 2017.** Because next year's operating fund includes maintenance and repairs, it will need a decent boost in funds over 2016.

Additionally, we hope you will also make a generous pledge to the capital appeal in the spring and we look forward to sharing more details with you about that in early 2017.

As you prayerfully consider these giving opportunities, please know how essential you are. We'll need generous and sacrificial giving from everyone in the congregation to succeed. You have already demonstrated your leadership in this way. We hope you will consider doing so again!

For now, I invite you to join Kirsten and me in pledging to the 2017 operating fund. Thank you again for all the ministry you make possible!



Mike, Emma, Cora and Kirsten Heggeseth

Mike Heggeseth

Vice chair, administration and finance committee

Co-chair, Building for Belonging capital appeal task force



Thank you for your dedicated care and preservation of our beautiful church building.

FAQ

What does it mean to pledge?

By making a pledge, you indicate your desire and intent to help support Luther Memorial financially in the coming year. You choose the amount you wish to give, and how frequently.

As Christians we view financial giving as a sacred rite, a practice that deepens our faith. For many, making a pledge creates a structured way to do this.

How is my pledge donation used?

Your giving is vital to the daily works of our congregation. Through the operating fund you create opportunities for worship and music, learning for all ages, small group and community enrichment, and outreach programs to serve those in need. Your pledge to the operating fund also covers regular building maintenance and repairs, and Luther Memorial's support to our synod and other key ministry partners.

How much should I give?

Give an amount that is meaningful to you. Prayerfully consider what is possible for your household at this time. Many in our parish strive to tithe, to give 10% of their income away to charity each year.

How much should I increase my pledge?

We have set a target goal to increase pledged income by 4% in 2017. If you are able to help our congregation reach that goal, please do what you can.

How should I factor next year's Capital Appeal into my 2017 pledge?

Please read the enclosed letter from Mike Heggeseth to building fund supporters. He suggests 2 ways you help care for our church building next year through your pledged giving.

Can I pledge to LM electronically?

Yes, many people set up a recurring gift. You can do so online at www.luthermem.org/giving.

Is there a deadline to receive my annual pledge?

Yes. Giving is good anytime, but please try to make your pledge by Sunday, Nov. 13. This assists us in making ministry plans for 2017.

Do I need to fill out a new pledge card if I give a recurring gift electronically?

It is helpful if you do. You can also contact Kim O'Leary, church administrator, to continue your electronic gift or make changes. This action gives you an opportunity to prayerfully consider the amount of your gift for the coming year.

Where do I go if I need more information?

You can always find helpful information on our web site: www.luthermem.org/giving. If you prefer to speak to someone, please contact one of the pastors or Kim O'Leary, church administrator. Contact information for staff can be found on the website or simply call the church office at (608) 258-3160.

your gracious love
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