



Luther Memorial Church

THIS IS WHERE WE GATHER

*we gather
we learn
we listen*

*we sing
we pray
we connect*

*we worship
we share
we give*

we live

*we serve
we love
we belong*



STEWARDSHIP 2020

Beloved in Christ,

Several years ago our congregation embarked on a discernment process. Together we asked, "What is God calling us here at Luther Memorial to do?" Since that time we have been busy planting seeds, watering the soil and, now, celebrating new growth! See some of these seedling ministries highlighted, right.

YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS, DEDICATION, AND FINANCIAL GENEROSITY HAVE HELPED TO CREATE A RICH AND FERTILE FIELD.

One particular seed planted back then comes to fruition now in tandem with this stewardship appeal. The congregation had asked for an efficient way to connect with others in their church family. This request led to the development—and now the official launch—of LM's new online community and giving portal. Secure and password-protected, this platform offers a number of features I think you will appreciate, most notably a pictorial directory (see more details in the far right column). Pastor John

and I have had the opportunity to use this resource already and it has made a welcome difference in our ability to connect with the entire LM community.

We delayed our fall stewardship appeal this year so we could combine it with this launch. I encourage you to make full use of these new online resources. I'm eager to hear how it helps you connect with others at LM!

As we continue to grow the seeds planted, as we think of seeds yet to plant, and as we await the harvest of the Lord, I hope you will **join with Joy and me and consider a 3% increase in your giving to general operating for 2020**. This will allow our church to continue the work we have been called to do, to continue to abide in the eternal Vine, Jesus Christ. Now and always.

With gratitude,



Senior Pastor Brad Pohlman



Ministry highlights

University outreach ministry

We celebrate the ongoing work of The Keep, our joint outreach ministry in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry to serve the surrounding university community. The Keep currently houses a food pantry run by LM volunteers, plus four UW-registered student organizations: BundleUp, Badger Caring Closet, F.H. King, and Wisconsin Without Borders Marketplace. These groups carry out important services working with at-risk populations, advocating for sustainability and supporting one other. LM's new food pantry, currently open for three hours a week, has seen its usage expand to more than 45 students a week.



Family ministry

Thanks to the vision and hard work of the Family Ministry Team, we continue to support families in worship, raising children in the faith at church and at home. Amid a full schedule of learning, social and service opportunities, the team added a camping trip to Rock Island State Park last summer. Addison Arndt, LM's faith and vocation fellow (2018–2020), continues to play an active leadership role in family ministry, for which we are blessed.

A new way to connect! A new way to give!

Announcing the launch of LM's new online community and giving portal. Powered by Elexio church management system, both platforms are integrated, secure and password-protected.

THIS NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY WILL ALLOW YOU TO EASILY CONNECT WITH OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS AND GROUPS AND MANAGE YOUR ONLINE GIVING.

In Elexio, you can access LM's pictorial directory on your computer, tablet or phone. You can update your photo and contact info, track your contribution history, and print your own statement at any time. Through our new giving portal, you can pledge and donate online, and set up automatic payment schedules. Text giving will also be available.

We will continue to add more features to enhance your online community experience, including the ability for LM leaders to manage their groups and send mass emails.

Watch for your email invitation to activate your community account. To activate your giving account, simply follow the instructions included with the enclosed pledge form.

Face-to-face sessions will be offered at church, with staff and volunteers ready to help you get started. We look forward to learning together, and making the most of these new ministry tools and resources to connect with one another!

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, a pledge creates a structured way to do this.

How is my pledge donation used?

Your giving is vital to the daily work of our congregation. You create opportunities for worship and music, learning for all ages, small group and community enrichment, and outreach programs to serve our neighbors in need. Your pledge to general operating 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 3% in 2020. If you are able to help our congregation reach that goal, please do what you can!

Can I pledge to LM online?

Yes, many people set up a recurring gift. Visit www.luthermem.org/giving to set up your pledge, choose the frequency and method of payment. Because we have a new giving portal, you may be prompted to register your account first.

Is it considered a pledge if I make a single gift?

Yes, whether you fulfill your pledge through an annual (one-time) gift or schedule periodic donations, you are expressing your commitment to support LM.

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

Yes, even more so this year because of our new giving portal. Please use this opportunity to prayerfully consider the amount of your gift for the coming year.

Is there a deadline to receive my annual pledge?

Yes. Giving is good anytime, but please try to make your pledge by Sunday, Dec. 29. This assists the church in making ministry plans for 2020.

For assistance, please contact Kim O'Leary, church administrator, at oleary@luthermem.org or (608) 258-3160 ext. 14.

Please make your pledge by Sunday, December 29.

Thank you!