



The Spirit of St. Luke

St. Luke Evan. Lutheran Church

Issue 11

December 2011

Christmas Gifts Beyond Compare

“ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’ which means, ‘God is with us.’ “

Matthew 1: 23

Life presents most of us with times of joy and struggle. Through both it helps to have a friend; someone with whom you can celebrate when that really good thing happens in your life, a graduation, birth or marriage. Imagine a job promotion with no one to tell about it or a letter of acceptance into a college or a club with no one to share your excitement.

Similarly, we deal with sorrow and grief with the support and presence of friends or family. It helps to know at great times of anxiety that we are not alone and that someone else has empathy for our particular struggle.

The words of the prophet in Matthew point to the gift of a son for Joseph and Mary. In spite of the awkward way in which this baby comes into our world, the child will be a unique gift for all of humanity. His name shall be Emmanuel, God with us, the gift of promise for all.

We were created by God to be in relationship. In the Garden of Eden frankly, we blew it, but our Lord God was unwilling to leave us in the condition which we made for ourselves, isolated from God, other human beings and from the creation itself. Thus, God came to us. God came reestablishing a relationship with the whole of creation. It was God’s intention that this reconciliation would not only draw us back to God but also reconnect us to one another and to the

world for which we are called to care.

Jesus, the embarrassing baby of Bethlehem, will become the man of sorrows who will die on that shameful cross. His love and life given without condition. His presence closer than any friend or family member; more forgiving than any other human being. On Christmas, as we anticipate his promise to return to us, we celebrate his presence among us: through one another, in his Word, in with and under the bread and wine that continue to offer us forgiveness, reconciliation and love. His life and love, priceless gifts of presence in our lives today; telling us we are never alone, Emmanuel, God with us in joy and struggle.

Pastor Margaret E. Hez-Lane

Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
Growth in Giving Worksheet	2
Steps in Growth	2
Letter from President Norm Houck	4
December Birthdays Usher Schedule	4
Youth Photo and Homeless Lock-out	4
Christmas Schedule	4

All hands are needed !...Christmas preparations, will be this coming Sunday, December 11th. Our plans are to clean and decorate for the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Services. The poinsettias will be here and we will need help arranging them. We want to make our church building ship-shape for all the visitors you are INVITING! We need YOU!

Christmas Cantata: Dec. 17th & 18th...Invite!

Invite, invite, invite!

Our choirs and musicians are two of the best kept secrets at St. Luke....let’s not keep them secret any longer ; invite your family and friends to hear the annual Christmas Cantata

at either worship service. Sat. at 5:00p.m. and Sun. at 10:00 a.m. We will have a time of refreshment and fellowship immediately after the services so please plan to stay for

coffee , tea and treats. There are invitation cards available in the narthex, back, of the church. Just ask an usher. Remember the theme this Christmas is: **INVITE!**

GROWTH GIVING CHALLENGE

A challenge for all members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to increase your giving through the congregation by 1% of your weekly income, and to consider similar growth at least annually, moving toward and beyond a tithe (10%).

Worksheet

Individual or household weekly income: \$ _____

Current weekly giving: \$ _____

Use the chart below to find the percentage closest to your current giving: _____ %

Consider growing by at least 1% to new percentage of: _____ %

My new weekly giving amount from the chart below: \$ _____

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Giving							
		15%	12%	10%	8%	7%	5%	3%	1%
5,200	100	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	1.00
6,500	125	18.75	15.00	12.50	10.00	8.75	6.25	3.75	1.25
7,800	150	22.50	18.00	15.00	12.00	10.50	7.50	4.50	1.50
9,100	175	26.25	21.00	17.50	14.00	12.25	8.75	5.25	1.75
10,400	200	30.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	14.00	10.00	6.00	2.00
11,700	225	33.75	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75	11.25	6.75	2.25
13,000	250	37.50	30.00	25.00	20.00	17.50	12.50	7.50	2.50
14,300	275	41.25	33.00	27.50	22.00	19.25	13.75	8.25	2.75
15,600	300	45.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	21.00	15.00	9.00	3.00
18,200	350	52.50	42.00	35.00	28.00	24.50	17.50	10.50	3.50
20,800	400	60.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	28.00	20.00	12.00	4.00
23,400	450	67.50	54.00	45.00	36.00	31.50	22.50	13.50	4.50
26,000	500	75.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	35.00	25.00	15.00	5.00
28,600	550	82.50	66.00	55.00	44.00	38.50	27.50	16.50	5.50
31,200	600	90.00	72.00	60.00	48.00	42.00	30.00	18.00	6.00
36,400	700	105.00	84.00	70.00	56.00	49.00	35.00	21.00	7.00
41,600	800	120.00	96.00	80.00	64.00	56.00	40.00	24.00	8.00
46,800	900	135.00	108.00	90.00	72.00	63.00	45.00	27.00	9.00
52,000	1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	70.00	50.00	30.00	10.00
65,000	1,250	187.50	150.00	125.00	100.00	87.50	62.50	37.50	12.50
78,000	1,500	225.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	105.00	75.00	45.00	15.00
91,000	1,750	262.50	210.00	175.00	140.00	122.50	87.50	52.50	17.50
104,000	2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	160.00	140.00	100.00	60.00	20.00

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GROWTH STEPS GIVING CHALLENGE

Find the step that matches your current weekly giving. Prayfully consider increasing by 1% your gift.

What percentage of income do you give?

Weekly giving ÷ Weekly income = Percentage of giving (.10 = 10%)

\$100 - \$150 or increase by 1%

\$75 - \$99

\$50 - \$74

\$40 - \$49

\$30 - \$39

\$20 - \$29

\$15 - \$19

\$10 - \$14

\$5 - \$9

\$1 - \$4

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Men's and Women's Luncheons

There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church for two weekends before your luncheon. The Christmas Luncheon is December 13th at Pappas. Please sign up by December 11th. Join for a time of fellowship and celebration. All are welcome and invited!



Brick Orders for Courtyard on Going. Forms in the back of the church. The next order will be in 2012.

Altar Flowers: Call the Church Office to get the date you would like. The cost is \$17 per vase.

Thank you! Dear Pastor Margaret and members of St. Luke, Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy in the loss of my daughter and Linda's sister. Your kindness is appreciated. Sincerely – Mary Beck



December 1, 2011

Dear Fellow Members:

At our Annual Congregational Meeting on November 20th the Council recommended that the congregation adopt the 2012 Proposed Balance Budget by Revenue Increase. The congregation moved that we adopt budget as recommended, the motion was seconded and then approved.

In the discussions a Cash Flow Chart was presented showing that we will be out of money by about the end of February unless there is an increase in giving to the General Fund. The Congregation was asked for their commitment and by show of hands gave their support.

Pastor Margaret handed out Growth Giving Challenge and Growth Steps Giving Challenge as a way to meet this challenge we are currently facing. The first Growth Giving Challenge is a chart to help you determine what percent of your income you are giving to church. Once you have determined your number you return to the chart to determine what the new dollar figure would be increasing giving by 1%. For instance \$6 is 3% of \$10,400 annual income. Increasing by 1% would be \$8 per week. Increasing by 2% would be \$10 per week.

The second Growth Steps Giving Challenge is a chart of giving per week in four-dollar levels. Once you determine your level you jump to next level. For instance if your giving \$5 to \$9 a week, the next step would be somewhere between \$10 and \$14 a week and this would become your new level.

Your 2011 Giving Statement for first 10 months was mailed to you to enable you to determine your current level of giving. There is no time like the present to embark on an increase-giving journey. If we wait until the beginning of the year, we will just be putting ourselves further behind. We have already begun our mission outreach but this will take time to see any increases.

It is up to us that are here now. If we want St. Luke to continue the way we know it, we have to step up. We cannot rely on the next person to do it but if enough of us do it with God's help it will get done.

The Congregation voted and approved one by-law change. This will be submitted to the synod for approval.

A new Council was voted in beginning January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2013.
President – Steve Mentzer, Secretary – Pam Savoie, Worship & Music – Shirley Schoenberger,
Community Ministry – James Lightner, Parish Education – Kim Merriken,
Fellowship – Carol Conroy, Invitation/Public Relations – Joseph Benham.

Norm Houck
Council President

St. Luke Evan. Lutheran Church



December Birthdays, no shut-in birthdays this month!

December Birthdays

- 12/01 Chinchilla, Jose**
- 12/09 Brittingham, Nan**
- 12/13 Mathews, Jessica**
- 12/15 Jansen, Jack**
- 12/18 Chinchilla, Amanda**
- 12/20 Merriken,* Jack**
- 12/21 DeBord, Brian**
- 12/23 Williams, Dana**



St. Luke youth are joined by members & staff of the congregation, parents and members of the "Helping Up Mission" for their annual "Lock-out for the Homeless." They learned first hand of the difficulties of life on the streets. Thanks for all your donations of food, clothing, and moral support.

Usher Schedule and Reminder: When you take the attendance count each week, please record it in the book. Someone from each team should be assigned to do this. Thanks.

December 2011

- Zach Egner
- Aaron Egner
- Jerry Miller
- Jennifer Miller

January 2012

- Jack Walters
- Janice Walters
- Fred Hobine
- Ruth Hobine



Christmas
At
St. Luke
Lutheran
Church
7001
Harford Rd.
Baltimore,
Md. 21234

Christmas Week Schedule

Saturday, December 17th — Choir Cantata 5 pm

Sunday, December 18th — Choir Cantata 10 am

Saturday, December 24th — Christmas Eve:

5:00 pm, Family Service *Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion.*

10:00 pm, Candlelight Service *Traditional Worship with Holy Communion.* Special music starts 9:30 pm

Sunday, December 25th — Christmas Day:

10:00 am Family Christmas Worship

**NO Sunday School December 25 or January 1
NO Children's Church December 25 or January 1**



St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

2012 Budget Draft - Annual Congregational Meeting

C:\Users\Lisa\Documents\St. Luke Finances\2010-2011 St. Luke Finances\Budget\2012 Budget to Norm and Rosalie.xlsx]Sheet1

	2011 Budget	2011 Actual to October 31	2011 Projection to Dec 31	2012 Proposed Balanced Budget By Revenue Increase	2012 Proposed Balanced Budget By Cost Reduction
General Fund					
Giving	211,364	87,904	110,904	193,603	127,851
Education					
Summer Day Camp (VBS)	900	150	150	500	500
Teaching Materials	1,500	1,167	1,500	750	750
Youth Programs	400	228	400	200	200
	2,800	1,545	2,050	1,450	1,450
Infrastructure & Office					
Communications-Telephone and DSL	1,900	1,426	1,726	1,900	1,900
Disability Self Insurance	775	-	775	-	-
Insurance & Bonding	7,900	5,357	6,757	7,200	7,200
Licenses	1,000	450	450	500	500
Maintenance - Cleaning Supplies	2,000	1,515	1,815	1,700	1,700
Maintenance - General	6,000	4,139	5,039	6,000	6,000
Maintenance - Infrastructure Contracts	1,200	675	825	1,200	1,200
Maintenance - Office Equipment	500	-	125	500	500
Maintenance - Kyocera KM-4050	1,500	646	796	1,100	950
Office - Postage	2,000	525	825	1,200	1,200
Office - Supplies	3,000	1,057	1,357	2,000	2,000
Utilities - Gas & Electric	22,000	15,066	18,466	22,000	22,000
Utilities - Water	1,000	1,066	1,066	1,200	1,200
	50,775	31,922	40,022	46,500	46,350
Ministry Facilitators					
All Ministries-Pastor					
Compensation-FICA Allowance	3,592	3,039	3,592	3,592	1,796
Compensation-Salary/ Housing Allowance	46,952	39,729	46,952	46,952	23,476
Continuing Education	1,000	25	525	1,000	500
Pension & Health	14,303	12,163	14,596	14,303	11,803
Reimbursement-Auto & Professional	4,800	92	292	4,800	2,400
Sabbatical	500	-	500	500	-
Supplemental	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal-Pastor	71,147	55,048	66,457	71,147	39,975
All Ministries - Employer FICA	4,306	3,864	4,394	4,306	1,912
All Ministries - Office Secretary	21,027	17,642	20,842	21,027	10,500
Christian Ed - Director of Education	250	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure - Sexton	6,632	6,078	6,728	6,632	-
Stewardship - Recording Secretary	1,560	618	956	1,560	-
Worship and Music - Nursery	1,600	1,040	1,480	1,600	-
Worship and Music - Saturday Music Director	10,236	8,794	10,369	10,236	-
Worship and Music - Sunday Music Director	14,980	12,676	14,981	14,980	14,500
Subtotal-Lay Facilitators	60,592	50,712	59,750	60,342	26,912
	131,739	105,760	126,206	131,489	66,887
Outreach					
Community Ministry - ELCA and Synod Ministry	10,000	4,158	5,246	5,114	5,114
Community Ministry - Synod Convention Exp	1,400	1,035	1,035	1,200	1,200
Community Ministry - Discipleship	500	-	250	500	500
Community Ministry - Egg Hunt & Rally	350	288	288	100	100
Community Ministry - HARBEL	50	-	50	50	-
Community Ministry - Health Ministry	200	-	-	-	-
Community Ministry - NHRCA	50	-	50	-	50
Evangelism - Invitation and Publicity	750	592	842	250	500
Fellowship	1,000	899	999	1,000	-
	14,300	6,972	8,760	8,214	7,464