

Our Theme...

Did you know that two of the greatest and most famous architectural structures in New York City, the Chrysler and Empire State Buildings, were erected during the early 1930s in the midst of the Great Depression? Many may have thought of such undertakings as foolish at the time, but history has shown them to be bold initiatives that inspired people to be bold in the face of hardship. They continue to stand today as a tribute to the boldness and optimism of the people during that difficult time.

Accordingly, our 2009 Stewardship Appeal theme is **“boldness.”** As Christians, the Lord calls us to “boldness” in faith, particularly when we find ourselves in the most difficult times and situations.

“Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness.” 2 Corinthians 3:12

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14

“...proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” Acts 28:31

The Ultimate Boldness

The Chrysler and Empire State Buildings are truly impressive structures, but as

towering and emblematic as they may be, they pale in comparison to the tree upon which our Lord was hanged...the Cross. It is that cross that continues to remind us that our Lord transformed the greatest suffering ever known, the death of Jesus, into the greatest joy and gift ever known, the resurrection of Christ.

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

What does this mean for us?

Although we are not in the midst of a great depression, many are attempting to cope with the difficulties brought about by the challenging financial crisis we face in this country and around the world. It is just such a time that we are called to boldness by Christ. Not only do we have his calling we also have his example. If the Lord can transform the greatest suffering ever known into the greatest joy ever known, why would we ever expect less of ourselves when we have his help in the presence of the Holy Spirit? We have the hope of forgiveness and resurrection because of his grace. And as St. Paul reminds us, it is because of that hope that *“we act with great boldness.”*

So in the midst of these challenging economic times, St. Luke Lutheran Church is being called to act with similar boldness.

As you prioritize your time and finances this coming year we would ask that you faithfully include Christ’s mission in the world through your church. In other words, continue to give boldly.

For those who are able to give more this year than last, your ability to do so becomes particularly important. For those who cannot give more, we would ask that you maintain the level of your current giving. For those who find they must give less, we ask that you give as you are able. Whatever your level of support, we give thanks for your bold stewardship.

Perhaps many from the outside looking in would call this foolishness or carelessness. We know it is boldness!

How do I make my Pledge of Financial Resources for 2009?

Fill out the form on the last page of this brochure. Be sure to make a copy of the financial pledge form for your own records. On Stewardship Weekend, Saturday, November 1st and Sunday November 2nd, bring your financial pledge, as well as your commitment of time and talent, to one of the three Services that weekend. If you are unable to be present at that time you may bring them to any subsequent worship service or mail them to the Church office. Thank you for your generous, joyful, and bold giving!

.Simply Giving Users...

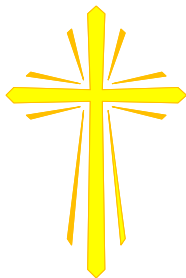
If you give using *Simply Giving* (automated giving), you must also complete the enclosed "*Member Authorization Form*."

Additional Copies?

Copies of all forms may be downloaded from the Stewardship section of the St Luke website (<http://www.stluke-elca-abq.org>) and will be available in the Narthex and Church Office.

Please ask questions and pray with us

You are encouraged to ask any questions of the Stewardship Appeal Chair (Tom Berardinelli), the Pastors, the Church Council, or the Church Office. Once again, thank you in advance for your boldness in faith and your generous giving of time, talent, and financial resources.



2009 Financial Pledge

As a part of my/our entire life given to the service of the Lord, I/we make this financial promise for the annual support of the ministry of our congregation.

I/we promise to give: \$ _____

Per: _____ week or _____ month.

My/our commitment will begin Jan 1, 2009 and continue through Dec 31, 2009.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

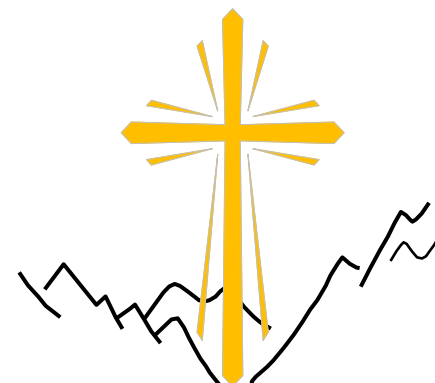
This commitment may be increased, decreased, extended, or canceled by contacting the church's financial secretary.

St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Albuquerque, NM 87112
(505) 299-2621

<http://www.stluke-elca-abq.org/>

10/04/08

The 2009 St. Luke Stewardship Appeal



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