

Our theme...

This year our theme, *showers of blessing...harvests of good*, is derived from three sources:

The first source is the refrain of a song called *Showers of Blessing* written by Daniel Whittle:

*Showers of blessing
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.*

The second source is Ezekiel 34:26:

I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing.

The third source is 2 Corinthians 9:8:

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

A call for abundant giving

The Lord always leads and as Christians we are called to follow. We love God because he first loved us, we receive God's grace, we do not earn it, and we are called to give abundantly because we have been abundantly blessed. Our theme for this year's pledge drive not only reminds us of

our need for the Lord's showers of blessing, it also reminds us that we are often used by the Lord as the source of those blessings for others...both inside and outside our own Congregation.

Thinking of all types of giving

Perhaps our first thought when we think of stewardship and pledging is "how much?" More specifically, how much money? Although the giving of the treasure we've been blessed with is important, stewardship should be more about the giving of our whole selves.

This past July as I traveled to New Orleans with Bev and three youth from St. Luke for the ELCA National Youth Gathering, I was reminded that there is really no substitute for the giving of ourselves for others. Although financial gifts and giving have been important to the recovery of New Orleans (and especially the 9th Ward), the actual giving of "service" to do hands-on work in New Orleans has been much more valuable. In the area that our youth worked for their service learning, we were told that had it not been for their efforts, it would have taken months to do what they did in 5-6 hours.

As you know, last year our budget had a challenge portion. This is the portion of the budget that is required to do the work St. Luke is called to do, but was beyond our expected level of giving in 2009. We are still facing the probability of not being able

to fund those challenge items in 2009, much of which includes a level of benevolence giving that we'd like to reach. Of course, bold and abundant giving of our financial treasure will help bridge that gap, but there is also another way to give that doesn't involve money...it's the gift of ourselves in service to the Lord, each other and our congregation. Due to financial challenges, we may not be able to give as much money as we did in recent years, but what about hours, days or weeks? If we can't write a check to those who have received our benevolence in the past, what about showing up for a few more hours a week to "exercise the soul" as a volunteer?

In the coming weeks, our congregation will be looking at the possibility of participating in at least one new ministry we have not in the past...and most of our ability to do it will depend not on how much money we can give to it but rather on how much service we can all give. We also need volunteers throughout St. Luke from worship to office assistance to new choir members to property maintenance. Are you ready to shower the blessing of your service (as well as your treasure) on the Lord's work done at and by St. Luke?

How do I make my pledge of financial resources for 2010?

Fill out the form on the last page of this brochure. Pledge Weekend will be Oct 24th and 25th. We ask that you bring your

financial and service life volunteer pledge forms to one of the three Services that weekend. You may also bring them to the Church office or to any other service if you are unable to bring them on 24 or 25 Oct.

Simply Giving Users...

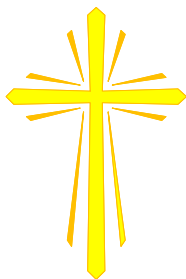
If you give using *Simply Giving* (automated giving), you must also complete the enclosed "*Member Authorization Form*."

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.

Please ask questions and pray with us

You are encouraged to ask any questions of the Pledge Drive Chair (Tom Berardinelli), the Pastors, or the Church Council. Once again, thank you so very much for your past, present, and future abundant giving!



2010 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, 2010 and continue through Dec 31, 2010.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

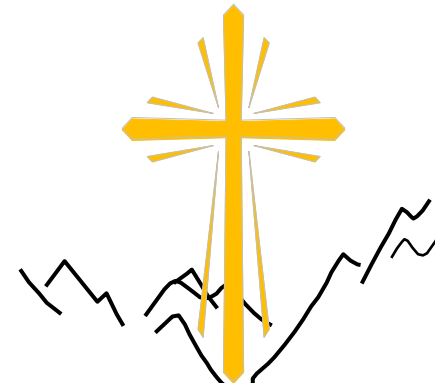
This commitment may be increased, decreased, extended, or canceled by contacting the church's financial secretary.

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

10/12/09

The 2010 St. Luke Pledge Drive



*"...I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing".
- Ezekiel 34:26*