

SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Commitment 2019

ALL HANDS ON DECK



WHAT IS A "SAILBOAT CHURCH"?

This year our church has chosen to embrace the concept of a "Sailboat Church" within its mission and practice. A "sailboat church" is one that relies on the Holy Spirit (the "wind") to propel it. It is oftentimes too tempting to do the work ourselves ("rowing") and to forget about the power that faith brings to our every action. Being a sailboat church calls our congregation toward faithfulness and trust, inspiring us to open our sails to embrace the winds God sends our way in the form of the Holy Spirit. Our church is blessed with a steady wind, we need only capture it.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Saint Luke's financial need is going up by 7% in 2019. We are asking each member, if you are able, to increase their pledge by at least 7%. do not currently pledge to do so. Pledged commitments enable the church to plan its budget because we know how much money we have to work with for the year.
- Each additional 1% pledge increase above 7% would produce approximately \$13,000 in income for our church. With this we can fund guest speakers, new programs and more community outreach – allowing us to do more than just maintain the status quo. We are asking each member who can, increase their pledge by more than 7%.
- As part of becoming a "sailboat church" we put faith in the Holy Spirit to move us. Let it move you as you consider the appropriate pledge amount for your family. This year you will find a Commitment Devotional Guide with practical suggestions on what it means to "prayerfully consider" your financial commitment to Saint Luke's, and how to do so.
- Realizing that not all members can increase their pledges, we ask all members who



Sometimes, members find it helpful to learn where their pledge level falls within pledgers generally. The amount of every member's pledge is very confidential so names cannot be given, but if you would like to see a breakdown of the ranges of pledging levels, feel free to send a confidential email to commitment@slpres.org, and we can provide that breakdown.

What you give is between you and God. What is important is that you add your gifts to help our church family build towards God's future and fulfill our vision "to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love – where every member is an active disciple in Christ's ministry."

It is your continued contributions of time, talents, and money that builds on the foundation of Christ's church at Saint Luke's. **YOU** make Saint Luke's a beacon of faith, hope, and love; and help make every person a disciple of Christ. **We thank you in advance for helping us raise the sails of Saint Luke's, catch the divine wind, and sail together!**



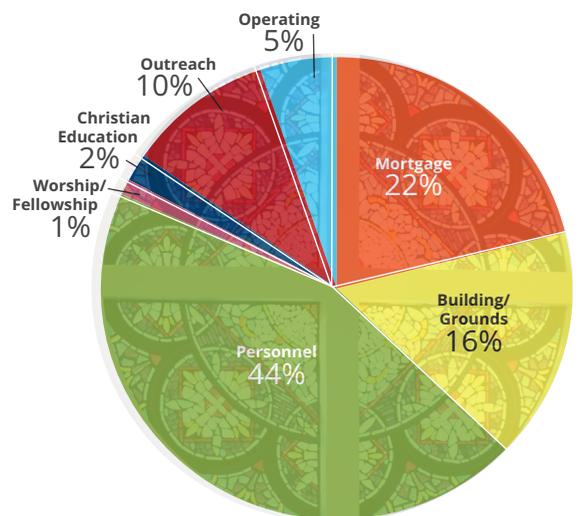


WHAT IS OUR FINANCIAL NEED FOR 2019?

After years of cutting costs and maintaining a flat budget, it was inevitable that our expenses would increase. We also used some cash reserves in 2018 that will not carry over into 2019. **Simply to maintain our current staff and programs, and to cover essential needs like utilities, we need pledged income to increase by 7% in 2019.** The 2019 operating budget is expected to require pledged giving of \$1.362 million, which is 7% greater than 2018. To bring back the sailboat church analogy, to keep rowing and to do nothing more next year than we have done this year, we would need 7% more in commitments than this year just to maintain.

And while our status quo gets a lot done, there is so much more we could be doing! With more offerings we could find ourselves in a position of really catching the wind and sailing rather than rowing so hard. A pledged income increase above 7% would allow us to do things like:

- Bring in prominent guest speakers
- Run additional programs for youth and families
- Expand community outreach





HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

In order for Saint Luke's to meet its 2019 operating budget, we ask every member, if you are able, to increase last year's pledge by at least 7%. And we ask every member family to make a pledge – we will make it very easy for you! We hope that members will take this opportunity to reflect on the blessings they and our church have received. With this in mind, we ask that you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to your church home and the important missions it supports here in Dunwoody and around the world.

What Does it Mean to "Prayerfully Consider"?



Prayerful consideration is a phrase that we hear a lot during Commitment season. But what does it really mean? How do we prayerfully consider our Commitment for the upcoming year?

Try to set aside some time specifically to pray

about your Commitment decisions. If you have a spouse or partner who shares financial decisions with you, pray together. Try praying aloud together. You may have a prayer practice that works for you. Or consider using our Commitment Devotional Guide to help you.



HERE'S HOW EASY IT IS TO PLEDGE THIS YEAR

Our usual pledge form is in this brochure. Hardcopies are available in the church office. Even easier is the following: Log in to **Realm** by clicking Member Login at **slpres.org**, or log in to the **RealmConnect** mobile app. Go to Giving, select Pledges or Make a Pledge, and create a new Pledge for Gen Operations. Or send a confidential email to **commitment@slpres.org** with your pledge amount for 2019.

“Set hopes not on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, storing up for yourselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that you may take hold of the life that really is life.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19





2019 PLEDGE FORM

You can make your pledge online! Log in to Realm by clicking Member Login at slpres.org

Name: _____

Make(s) a total 2019 financial pledge of \$ _____

- OR -

Increases my 2018 pledge by the following percentage:

____ 7% ____ 10% ____ 15% ____ other

Payment method:

Check or Cash Bank Draft (see below) Visa AmEx MC

I authorize \$ _____ to be deducted from my card on the frequency noted below.

The finance team will contact you for card details.

Payment frequency (Between Jan 1, 2019 and Dec 31, 2019):

One time Annually Quarterly Other frequency: _____
 Weekly Monthly Semi-monthly

A gift of stocks, bonds or other securities: Gift value: _____ Gift date: _____

BANK DRAFT AUTHORIZATION

I, _____, authorize Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church ("Saint Luke's") to initiate withdrawals from my account at the financial institution named in this document for payment of my 2019 pledge. This authorization will remain valid January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, or until I, Saint Luke's, or my financial institution revokes it. I can suspend a monthly payment by notifying Saint Luke's at any time prior to 4 p.m. three business days before the payment is scheduled to be deducted from my account. I understand that the direct payment program is an alternative method of payment only and does not otherwise affect my rights or the rights of Saint Luke's or my financial institution with respect to each other. I further understand that Saint Luke's and my financial institution reserve the right to terminate the Direct Payment plan and/or my participation in it. If I wish to discontinue my participation in the Direct Payment plan, I may do so by notifying Saint Luke's in writing.

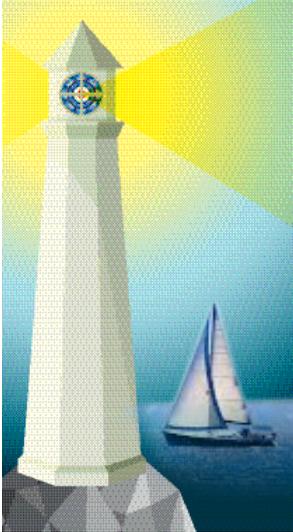
I authorize \$ _____ to be deducted monthly from my account.

Name of Financial Institution: _____

Authorized Account Holder Signature: _____ Date Signed _____

Joint Account Holder Signature: _____ Date Signed _____

PLEASE STAPLE VOIDED CHECK TO FORM UNLESS YOU PREVIOUSLY HAVE PROVIDED A VOIDED CHECK AND ARE USING THE SAME BANK ACCOUNT FOR AUTO-WITHDRAWAL FOR YOUR PLEDGE.



FAQ:

Doesn't the recent Capital Campaign cover Commitment as well?

It does not – the capital campaign is going to help us pay down our mortgage in 2021 but that does not have an impact yet on our yearly expenses.

Why do I need to pledge? Can't I just contribute in the offering on Sunday?

Just like a family budget, your church family needs to know how much money we have to pay expenses and operate for the following year. Without pledging there is no way to accurately budget for the year. Therefore pledged dollars go much further than unpledged dollars because we plan ahead for their use.

Why are you asking for my pledge to increase by 7%?

Expenses tend to increase over time. Last year we were lucky to have "carryover" funds and cash reserves available that allowed us to offset some of the 2018 expenses. We also are experiencing 2-3% increases in utilities, building and personnel costs and other ordinary expenses, which are not unusual. The net result is a need for 7% more income in 2019 to maintain a balanced budget.



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