

# 2023 PLEDGE FORM

## THREE WAYS TO PLEDGE:

### ONLINE

**1. Go to the Realm Mobile App or SLPRES.org.** Log in by clicking Saint Luke's Realm logo in the top right corner.

**2. Go to GIVING;** Select Make a Pledge or +Pledge, and create a new Pledge for General Operations (Pledge) 2023.

### EMAIL

Send confidential email to [commitment@slpres.org](mailto:commitment@slpres.org).

### FILL OUT & RETURN PLEDGE FORM ON NOV. 13:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A total 2023 financial pledge of \$: \_\_\_\_\_

- OR -

Increase my 2022 pledge by the following percentage:

\_\_\_\_\_7% \_\_\_\_\_10% \_\_\_\_\_15% \_\_\_\_\_other:\_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:

\_\_\_\_\_Credit Card/Bank Draft (set-up online on Realm) \_\_\_\_\_Check or Cash

Payment Frequency (Between Jan 1, 2023 and Dec 31, 2023):

\_\_\_One time \_\_\_Annually \_\_\_Quarterly \_\_\_Weekly \_\_\_Monthly \_\_\_Semi-monthly \_\_\_Other

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

If my annual Income is:	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
2% of my annual income is	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$10,000
5% of my annual income is	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
10% of my annual income is	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
15% of my annual income is	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$11,250	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$75,000

# WHY WE PLEDGE

## COMMITMENT IS SPIRITUAL

Commitment is our response to God's goodness and grace in the ways we use our time, our talents, our connections (invite someone to Saint Luke's!), and our financial resources. It begins with the foundational principle expressed in scripture, "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). All that we have is a gift of grace, and in gratitude we return a generous portion to support the work God intends for us and the world.

## COMMITMENT IS ALSO FINANCIAL

Although commitment is not limited to finances, how we use our money is an important way of expressing our faith. Nearly a third of Jesus' teachings have to do with this topic. He knew the truth, that our money, like our words and our actions, reflects our values and purpose. Jesus taught his followers to give selflessly and generously, like God does, so that their lives would be arranged as a reflection of God.

The Israelites, Jesus, and his followers gave a "tithe," or "one-tenth, to God's work from the "first fruits" of the harvest, before taking anything for themselves. When (first) and how much (a tenth of all we have) is prescribed purposefully in the Bible, commanding a bold response to God's abundance and bold commitment to God's work from everyone.

While some in our congregation do tithe their annual income, for many a tithe is an elusive challenge. But we ask that you consider a tithe, or getting on a path toward a tithe, as the kind of bold giving our shared faith asks of us. A simple path toward a tithe is to increase your giving each year by 1% of your annual income until reaching 10%.

The average pledge at Saint Luke's is roughly \$7,000 (\$1.1M from 150 households), or about \$600 per month. Some give more and some give less, but generous commitments are required from all of us in order to do all that Saint Luke's does!

## COMMITMENT IS ESSENTIAL

The Finance Committee of the church's Session develops and adopts a balanced operating budget each calendar year. This budget is based on the ministry plans and needs of the church, and the projected pledges and other forms of income. The budget primarily funds personnel, building maintenance, church programs, outreach, and mortgage.

So what we can plan to do in the coming year is a function of what we pledge to give. In this way, pledged giving is far more valuable and important to the church than giving as you go.

An annual commitment campaign is conducted every fall, during which the church is celebrated and our commitments to the coming year are summoned and offered. Once a balanced budget is adopted each year, our income and expenses are reviewed carefully and constantly by the Finance Committee of the church's Session in keeping with it.

## COMMITMENT IS SIMPLE

1. Make a pledge
2. Set up a regular giving plan
3. Increase your pledge each year, work toward a tithe
4. Consider long term giving to the endowment or planned giving

**“Commitment” is the shared value by which Saint Luke's members and friends grow in faith. Our commitments together are the lifeblood of the church, empowering the church to reflect God's love for one another and neighbors near and far.**

