



HOLY WORSHIP † WHOLLY SERVING

November 2, 2023

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters of Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all the ways you support Grace Lutheran Church. Our Finance and Stewardship Team is continuing the theme of **100% for 1%** as this year's stewardship campaign, with the goal of encouraging (100%) full participation (for at least a 1% increase in giving) from Grace members and friends. It is important that we pause once a year, give thanks for what God has given us, and consider how we can increase our gifts with others.

Your gifts to Grace support a wide range of ministries, directly from the corner of Queen and James streets and beyond in the global service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you were unable to be at church the weekend of October 1st, please take a moment to watch the YouTube video of Philip Supeck's temple talk which captures the theme of the annual campaign and the importance of your giving to the general fund of the congregation which supports ongoing ministries and benevolence. This video can be found on Grace's You Tube channel, which is accessible from the church's website. We have also enclosed a copy of Philip's temple talk in this mailing if you prefer to read a copy.

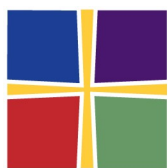
In addition to the enclosed commitment form, please find a copy of your 2023 giving statement for reference and confirmation of your gifts through the 3rd quarter of this year.

The weekend of November 12th will serve as our Commitment Weekend for the fall campaign. In the coming weeks we will be sharing a video which highlights many of the ministries of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider the challenge of **100% for 1%** and return your commitment form to the church office or in the offering plate on Commitment Weekend.

Thank you for all your gifts to Grace!

In Christ,

Grace Stewardship Team



Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

100% FOR 1%



Pledge Form 2024

In thanksgiving for God's many blessings, I/we intend to commit to the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church in 2024:

\$ _____ per week **OR** \$ _____ per month **OR** \$ _____ per year

This is an increase of \$ _____ per week / month / year (this helps with our records)

Name (s) [please print] _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Work Phone (____) _____

There are two main ways by which you can fulfill your 2024 Stewardship Commitment. Please indicate your choice.

_____ OPTION #1 - I/we plan to complete our stewardship commitment by using the envelopes that are mailed monthly.

_____ OPTION #2 - I/we plan to contribute via Simply Giving, a convenient, consistent, safe, and simple way to make automatic payments directly from my/our checking or savings account. (*This form of payment is at no cost to you.*)

Simply Giving Authorization: Complete the information below if you are choosing Simply Giving for the first time **OR** if you are making any changes to an existing Simply Giving account. Those currently using Simply Giving and making no changes do not need to complete the Simply Giving form.

Check the appropriate box:

- ☐ New enrollment / authorization
- ☐ Change in bank account
- ☐ Change in authorized amount

Frequency of Payment: (Please check only one)

- ☐ Weekly on Monday
- ☐ Weekly on Friday
- ☐ Monthly on the 1st
- ☐ Monthly on the 15th

Date of First Payment _____

Payment should be taken from:

- ☐ Checking
(attach a voided check)
- ☐ Savings
(attach a savings deposit slip)

REQUIRED:

In accordance with the above I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Services, LLC to automatically transfer payments from my account to the account of Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate the Authorization.

Print Account Holder Name _____

Account Holder Signature _____

Date _____

Commitment Sunday is November 12, 2023. Please place completed form in offering plate OR send to the Church Office.

Thank You!

517 N Queen St ~ Lancaster, PA 17603 ~ (717) 397-2748 ~ www.GraceLutheranChurch.com

Temple Talk

Saturday, September 30, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Sunday, October 1, 2023 – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Good Evening/Morning.

The Autumn season is upon us. The signs of the harvest are all around. The weather has grown cooler. The corn fields, once green, are now fields of gold. Pumpkin patches are saturated with colors of Fall. Apple trees are abundant with fruit, ready for picking. It is the time of year when we gather, account, and store up for the season ahead. A time to reflect on the work that we have done. A time to thank God for the blessings we have received, and to look forward with joyful anticipation to that which is yet to come.

Here at Grace Lutheran Church, we have an almost 150-year legacy of being at work in the community. Employees and volunteers have spent countless hours serving through many of our ministries. Thanks be to God for those, of all ages, that serve as members of our various music ministries. Thanks be to God for the hands that prepare meals on Wednesday night and for other programs throughout the week. For the teachers in our English Language Learner program, for our teachers offering music lessons, teaching Sunday School, leading Confirmation Class, Vacation Bible School, Dramability, and our Youth Group. Thanks be to God for those that lead our books clubs, our prayer groups, and our Friday morning men's gathering. Thanks be to God for those serving on committees that upkeep this historic property, for those counting the money, paying the bills, and keeping the finances, for those that decorate, show hospitality, plan, prepare, and serve as worship volunteers. For those serving communion to our shut-ins and visiting with our visitors. Thanks be to God for those spending countless hours in support of Lancaster Housing and Neighborhood Development Services. May God continue to bless this ministry as we provide affordable housing within our community. Thanks be to God for those I have missed on this list. Thank you for all that you are doing.

We give thanks to God for those groups using our Education Building to provide services to our community. For the Day Care Center, Narcotics Anonymous, and all other groups. For the residents of our L-HANDS properties. May God bless and keep them this day and every day.

With a 150-year legacy of work in our community also comes a 150-year legacy of giving. Year-to-date, Grace Lutheran Church has realized an income of \$673,409. This represents gifts to our General Fund, Capital Campaign, and Investment Accounts. You have been generous in giving and we have been good stewards of these gifts, however, as we look ahead, we can all recognize that expenses are going to continue to rise. Our goal this season is to increase giving to our General Fund. This is where your generosity is needed once again. With the goal of continuing all the programs listed that each of you so generously support with your time and resources, I am asking you to consider your level of generosity.

As in the past, our goal this Fall is to increase our giving from 100% of our congregation by 1%. For those that are already giving, we ask you to prayerfully consider adding at least a 1% increase to your existing giving. For those who are not yet giving, we ask for you to prayerfully consider beginning the habit of tithing. Scriptures tell us that we are to present one tenth of what we receive as a tithe to God. I acknowledge for some, giving up 10% of your income is not much of a concern. For others, it is of great concern. If you find yourself among the latter, then start by giving what you can. It does not matter if you are calculating your gifts on your gross income or net income. What matters is that you choose to give. If you can give 5% of your income, then give 5%. If you can give 1% of your income, then give 1%. Our goal is for each person that calls themselves a member of Grace Lutheran Church to give something. 100% participation increasing our current giving by at least 1%.

In the days ahead, you will be hearing from our Stewardship Committee. Between now and then, I ask you to meditate and pray, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in your generosity.

Malachai 3:10 tells us "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Generosity generates joy. God loves a joyful giver and so do we. Is this a challenge you are willing to accept?

In this harvest season, let each of us join in gathering, accounting, and storing up for the season ahead. Let us reflect on the work that we have done. Let us thank God for the blessings we have received. Let the Holy Spirit increase our generosity as we look forward with joyful anticipation to that which is yet to come.

May grace, mercy, generosity, and peace be upon you.