



WITH
HEART
AND
HANDS
AND
VOICES

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP 2023

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

The stewardship theme for this year, *With Heart and Hands and Voices*, comes from the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God,” written by Lutheran minister Martin Rinkart. Rinkart lived in Eilenberg, Saxony through the Thirty Year’s War, and then became the only surviving pastor of that city during the subsequent plague of 1637, conducting as many as fifty funerals in a single day. The plague and war are estimated to have killed between 4.5 and 8 million people. Yet through grief, loss, suffering, and death, Rinkart still thanked God for his blessings. “Now Thank We All Our God” began as a family prayer before meals, and later was sung as a national thanksgiving at a celebration service when the Thirty Year’s War ended.

The challenges of the past two and half years have been significant, but so have been the rewards. Our parish has learned together how to nurture our hope and persevere. In spite of, and perhaps because of our recent challenges, our individual roles in the community have taken on an elevated purpose for the continuation of our important work in the congregation, community, and the world. We have accomplished so much together! We have continued to faithfully worship, either in person or at home, thanks in part to the enhancement of new technology and the willingness and aptitude of our community to embrace it. We have made great strides toward expanding our formation, worship, and fellowship opportunities while simultaneously cultivating a more healthy, sustainable, and robust church. In short, our energy and tireless efforts have put us among the few churches who are growing and thriving in this pandemic.

As you contemplate and pray over all the blessings of the past year, remember that stewardship is more than a duty. It is a thankful response to God’s graciousness to us. Stewardship is gratitude – our humble, grateful recognition that everything we have is a pure gift from God. Stewardship is an act of Thanksgiving!

With thanks to the God who is the source of all that we are and all that we have,

The Vestry of St. Luke’s Evanston
Cheryl Souder, Senior Warden
Henry Austin, Junior Warden



**PLEDGE ONLINE:
WWW.STLUKESEVANSTON.ORG/PLEDGE**

ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS

★ 24 ★

CHILDREN AGE 3-9
ENROLLED IN
CHRISTIAN
FORMATION

We have already
exceeded our goal to
enroll 21 children by 2024

71%

INCREASE FROM 2021
IN ENROLLMENT IN
CHRISTIAN FORMATION
FOR AGES 3-9

Almost 300 people from
around the world participated
in our 2022 Advent Retreat
with Pádraig Ó Tuama

80%

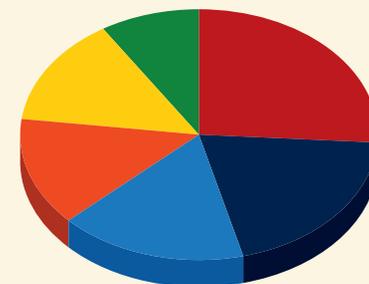
OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVE
IN ONE OR MORE
MINISTRIES AT
ST. LUKE'S

For the first time this year, we hosted an
Open Enrollment on ministries at St. Luke's
to allow people to choose new ministries,
transition leadership, and continue to
serve as called in this period.

1000s

Of flowers have graced the nave thanks
to our new flower ministry. This
ministry also expands our pastoral care
so that people who are going through
a hard time might find a bouquet from
St. Luke's on their doorstep.

HOW IS YOUR PLEDGE USED?



Worship & Music - 26%
Building & Maintenance - 20%
Education & Formation - 17%
Office & Administration - 14%
Outreach - 14%
Hospitality & Publicity - 9%

237

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
ACROSS ALL WEEKLY
SERVICES

Our weekly services include the addition of
our Sunday afternoon offerings, in which we
open our doors at 4:00 pm for a liturgy or
concert. These services consistently bring in
people from the neighborhood who wouldn't
otherwise come to St. Luke's.

54 Choristers across three
choirs : The St. Luke's Choir,
St. Cecilia Singers, and
Evensong Singers

20 Children serving as acolytes
and sanctus bell ringers at
the 10:00 service

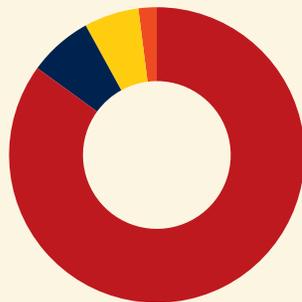
6 Children enrolled in
Confirmation

11 Children participated in
solemn communion last
spring

4 New volunteers were
recruited as our inaugural
crop of Godly Play teachers

SOURCES OF INCOME

PLEDGES - 82%
INVESTMENT INCOME - 8%
SPECIAL GIFTS & TENANTS - 7%
PLATE OFFERINGS - 2%



82%

OF OUR FUNDING
COMES FROM
PLEDGES

NUMBER OF
NEW STAFF
ADDED:

2

PLEDGING VS. GIVING

Pledging and giving go hand in hand and both help our vestry guide the parish. They work together as we grow and expand the work of our church.



Early in the church's history, leaders made week-to-week decisions using the plate offerings to support the church.

Today the scope, size and complexity of our parish life requires our vestry to budget skillfully and carefully for the year ahead.

This is why we ask you to make an annual commitment to St. Luke's in the form of a pledge. Throughout the year, your gifts count toward fulfilling that pledge. This helps us predict the resources that will be available over the course of a year.

WAYS TO PLEDGE

Your pledge will sustain the spiritual growth of all who are a part of St. Luke's and help us nourish the needs of others in the name of Christ's love. Every pledge matters at St. Luke's; every pledge counts. You can make your pledge in several ways:

- Return the enclosed pledge card by mail to St. Luke's, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, IL 60202
- Drop the enclosed pledge card into the offering plate
- Pledge Online: www.stlukesevanston.org/pledge

WAYS TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGE

You can mail your pledge or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Envelopes are available to those who request them. The best way to fulfill your pledge is by setting up secure electronic payments on Realm, our church management system. You can set up automatic payments with your debit or credit card. You can access Realm via St. Luke's website at www.stlukesevanston.org/giving

***LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD
GRACE OF GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH
WHATEVER GIFT EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.
- 1 PETER 4:10***

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NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD
WITH HEART AND HANDS AND VOICES,
WHO WONDROUS THINGS HAS DONE,
IN WHOM HIS WORLD REJOICES;
WHO FROM OUR MOTHERS' ARMS
HAS BLESSED US ON OUR WAY
WITH COUNTLESS GIFTS OF LOVE,
AND STILL IS OURS TODAY.

O MAY THIS BOUNTEOUS GOD
THROUGH ALL OUR LIFE BE NEAR US,
WITH EVER JOYFUL HEARTS
AND BLESSED PEACE TO CHEER US,
TO KEEP US IN HIS GRACE,
AND GUIDE US WHEN PERPLEXED,
AND FREE US FROM ALL ILLS
OF THIS WORLD IN THE NEXT.

ALL PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD
THE FATHER NOW BE GIVEN,
THE SON AND SPIRIT BLEST,
WHO REIGN IN HIGHEST HEAVEN
THE ONE ETERNAL GOD,
WHOM HEAVEN AND EARTH ADORE;
FOR THUS IT WAS, IS NOW,
AND SHALL BE EVERMORE.

-MARTIN RINKART, 1636





ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH - EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Stewardship 2023

939 Hinman Ave
Evanston, IL 60202

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