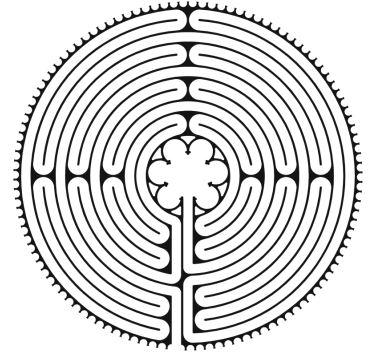


# hope & abundance

St. Luke the Physician  
Episcopal Church



November 11, 2020

Dear friend,

*Always be prepared to offer an account of the hope that is in you.* 1 Peter 3:15

You might notice something about this year's Stewardship campaign: It looks a lot like last year's Stewardship campaign. The thing is, it had to. Our community has so powerfully lived Hope & Abundance during this year that has given us so many unprecedented challenges, that we had to stick with it, we had to celebrate it, trusting that St. Luke's would again step into the uncertainty of this time with that same Hope & Abundance.

**Over the past year, you have offered a powerful account of the hope that is in you.**

The pandemic could have discouraged us. It could have caused us to drift further away from each other. Instead, our average worship attendance on Zoom is higher than our average in-person worship was. In May, we formally welcomed four new members to our community in a beautiful in-person service on our labyrinth, and I know there are at least four more waiting for the opportunity. Our Care Team has made a point of making sure every single person in our directory is contacted regularly. Deborah Aronson created the Anxiety Fun Group so that folks could come together to share their fears and laugh together. Our musicians found new and creative ways to bring you worship and prayer through music.

**You have adapted, finding new ways to love and support one another. You have stepped into your gifts. You have given your time. And yes, you have given of your financial resources. You continue to go all in on trusting in God's abundance.**

In 2019, we had to pull \$22,000 from our savings to cover our expenses, and those funds wouldn't last much longer at that rate. Last year, we had budgeted to pull over \$6,400 from those funds for 2020 to cover our budget. As of today, we haven't had to use any of our savings to pay our bills. This is partly because our expenses have been slightly lower—but only partly. So far in 2020, you've given 100% of what you pledged. You have kept up on your commitment to this community, even during one of the most difficult moments of our collective lives. This is an astonishing act of faith.

Our goal for 2020 was to become fully self-sustaining—and we did that! Over the next four years, our goal is to slowly increase Rev. Sara's salary until she is paid for full-time work. She is currently paid for 30 hours a week, and in 2021 we hope to increase that to 32.5 hours per week. With that increase, our forecasted expenses for 2021 is \$143,000. Some of this will be covered by building renters, but the majority of it will be covered by your pledges.

*(keep reading! →)*

## Our goal for pledges in 2021 is \$115,000.

Is it a stretch? Yes! Is it audaciously hopeful? Of course!

But this year, we're once again going all in on trusting in God's abundance.

Pledging in advance is important. It's how we plan for the year ahead. This Stewardship season, we invite you to get intentional and specific about how you will trust in the abundance God has given you.

### How much time will you give every month?

### What skills can you offer to this community?

Or maybe you're not so great at something, but you want to grow into a new skill in the safety of this place.

### What financial resources will you give?

The median household income in Gresham is \$47,706. If that number also represents our congregation, and everyone gave 5% of their income, we would easily meet our goal of \$115,000. We would be able to pay Rev. Sara for 32.5 hours per week instead of the 30 she is currently paid for.

We know everyone's financial situation is different and invite you to prayerfully discern what's right for you and your family. If your circumstances change, you can always change your pledge.

Enclosed is a pledge card for you to offer an account of the hope that is in you—hope for St. Luke's and the ways God is moving in this community and the world.

On November 22, you are invited to our Pledge Sunday for a celebration of abundance. We invite you to mail your pledge cards before then, and we will gather them together that day to give thanks for all God has given to this community.

*In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 12:5

St. Luke's is our place of belonging, where each of us—all of who you are and every gift you bring—is absolutely essential to the thriving of all of us. Thank you for the gifts you bring, for the joy you bring, for the trust you bring. Thank you for all the ways you love St. Luke's.

Peace,



The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield  
Rector



Jim Stumpf  
Stewardship Chair

P.s. You can also make your pledge by going to [www.saintlukesgresham.org/stewardship](http://www.saintlukesgresham.org/stewardship)