



November 15, 2023

Dear Lake Nokomis Lutheran,

You may remember when a fire alarm unexpectedly sent us out of the sanctuary during Sunday morning worship. We moved to the front courtyard where we gathered in a big circle and shared Holy Communion. **Nothing went as planned that day. Also, everything went perfectly that day.**

Sometimes we need a well timed interruption to remind us who we are. That day, I saw your adaptability and grace. **I saw a generosity of spirit.** I saw you take good care of the youngest and the oldest in our community. I saw that sharing the grace of Jesus with each other and with our neighborhood is who you are.

A snapshot like that tells the story of God's generosity and yours. **Because of your faith and your faithful gifts, this church continues to be a place of care, of inclusion and justice, of good news and mercy.**

Today, I invite you to consider three opportunities for generosity this year and next:

**One, a gift to close out 2023.** In January we passed an ambitious budget, we made significant cuts and kept our other expenses modest. We're close, but we anticipate a \$25,000 shortfall.

- *Would you consider a year end gift in 2023 to help us close that gap?*

**Two, consider your financial commitment in 2024.** When you pledge a gift, it helps us to set a more realistic budget plan for the year ahead. On the enclosed form, indicate what you and your family anticipate giving to support our shared vision of enough for everyone?

- *Could you see this not so much as a bill to pay, but an opportunity for generosity?*

**Three, a stretch goal.** Barb Tauferner will retire as our Director of Visitation next year. (Don't worry, she will stay on as our Parish Nurse!) To bring a new person into this role, we need to increase the budget for visitation by \$10K, (from \$5K to \$15K.) This vital ministry allows us to have an intentional presence for our homebound members.

- *Could you contribute a gift in 2024 to prioritize our visitation position?*

*I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts given to you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through Jesus, God has enriched your church in every way. 1 Corinthians 1:4-5*

Your church leadership, staff and council, are wisely attending to these gifts so that they make the biggest impact possible. We are filled with hope when we imagine what we will do together in 2024!

In Good Faith,

  
Pastor Sara

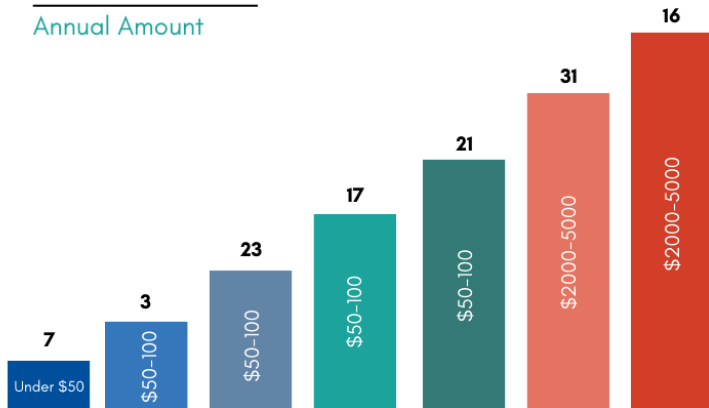
# Stewardship 2024

## Enough for Everyone

## 2023 Giving at a Glance

Number of Families

Annual Amount



Could you increase your gifts this year by one step?

## A little budget perspective...



**\$5 a week provides** Spark Bibles for children's ministry.



**\$39 a month** pays for music supplies and licenses.



**\$132 a month** pays postage expenses.



**\$300 a month** pays for communion supplies and devotional books.



**\$1,500 a year** provides three scholarships to Camp Wapogasset.



**\$4,600 a year** pays for our share of one month's operating expenses.



**\$13,000 a year** pays for children, youth, and family program expenses and summer trips.

## Why we Give:

As Christians, we recognize everything we have comes from God, and we are simply sharing these gifts for God's work. Through our tithes and offerings, we demonstrate in a tangible way our love for God and our neighbors. We do this for three reasons:

### An Act of Worship

All we have is a gift from God, so we believe that giving to God's work is an act of worship.

### Membership Expectation

At Lake Nokomis Lutheran, giving is an expectation of membership. The church does not specify how much an individual should give, but we hope each person will commit a percentage of their income and increase that amount as they are able.

### Funds Mission & Outreach

Annual giving makes possible: worship, programs for children and students, Bible studies, small groups, pastoral care and support, summer programming for youth, community service, and supports building and operational needs.

## Generosity Challenge

In 2023, **54% of households** support our ministry financially. **68 households** made a pledge. **118 households** gave a gift.

Help to increase the number of households giving by pledging and starting your gift today.

### Generosity is healthy!

Our culture often acts as though "mine" is one of the most priceless English words. Jesus always challenged that all-too-human possessiveness. When we loosen our grasp, he said, we can live lighter lives free of worry and stress. Those who live generously find a deeper sense of community, a lasting hope, and increasing love for others while leaving a lasting impact on the world.



**In response to God's grace and love**, I/we plan to financially support the ministries of Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in 2024. I/we understand that this amount can be raised or lowered at any time by contacting the finance office. [finance1@lakenokomis.org](mailto:finance1@lakenokomis.org)

This intent is your best estimate of financial support. **When you pledge, church leadership is able to more effectively plan** for staffing, mission, and programs. Your pledge may be fulfilled throughout the year in intervals of your choosing.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

### Three opportunities for generosity:

1. A year-end gift to meet the 2023 budget
2. A commitment for giving in 2024 (fill out the information below)
3. A stretch gift to support visitation ministry, \$10,000 goal

### I/we intend to give

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a total annual gift.
- We'll/I'll give as I'm/we're able.

### Donation frequency

- One-time
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Annually

### Offering envelopes

- I'd/we'd like offering envelopes

### Above and Beyond gift included:

- A year end gift for 2023
- A gift to prioritize visitation in 2024

### Payment type

- Continue current online giving with increase
- Continue current online giving as is
- I'll/we'll set up a new online gift with SimplyGiving [lakenokomischurch.org/give](https://lakenokomischurch.org/give)
- I'd/we'd like help setting up an online gift [finance1@lakenokomis.org](mailto:finance1@lakenokomis.org), 612-729-2323
- Check/cash
- Stock or IRA Distribution

### Planned giving

- I've/we've included Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in my will or estate plan
- I'd/we'd like to learn more about planned giving

### Returning your pledge form

There are three ways to get your pledge form to us.

- 1) Bring this form to worship with you on Sunday, November 19.
- 2) Email it. [finance1@lakenokomis.org](mailto:finance1@lakenokomis.org)
- 3) Mail it to us by December 10.

### Thank you for living out your faith through acts of generosity and love.

*They were unified as they worshiped day after day. In homes, they broke bread and shared meals with glad and generous hearts. Acts 2:46*

