



November 2024

Dear Lake Nokomis Lutheran,

You are generous! Generous in love, community, and financial gifts. Thank you.

As we continue to build and grow our community of faith, I invite you to consider three opportunities to financially sustain our shared ministry. **Flip the page to do just that!** Additional financial information and a **pledge card** will be mailed to Lake Nokomis Lutheran members in the week ahead.

Here's what your generous gifts make possible - on November 6 children joyfully gathered in the commons, youth talked about life and faith in confirmation, and others gathered for conversation, prayer and song as they processed the national election. It occurred to me that in one night we, Lake Nokomis Lutheran, were faithfully leaning into all of our values as a community of faith.

Our vision statement is **Enough for Everyone**. Our values back that up (see reverse) - *enough grace, enough space, enough courage, enough hope, enough to share, enough and then some*. These values begin and end in love - God's gift of unconditional love for us and our faith-filled endeavors toward love of neighbor.

Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry writes: *Love is a firm commitment to act for the well-being of someone other than yourself. It can be personal or political, individual or communal, intimate or public. Love will not be segregated to the private, personal precincts of life. Love, as I read it in the Bible, is ubiquitous. It affects all aspects of life... God so loved the world that he "gave." God gave. God did not take. God gave. That's agape. That's love. And love such as that is the way to the heart of God, the heart of each other. It is the way to a new world that looks something more like God's dream for us and all creation.*

In the year ahead we will lean into our values, we will let love lead the way, we will be a community of faith that shows up for each other, for neighbor and stranger.

I'm so glad you're a part of this, we can only do it together!

In good faith,

Pastor Sara

As this year comes to a close, please consider **three things**:

One, a gift to close out 2024. In January we passed an ambitious budget, we made significant cuts and kept our other expenses modest. Still, we anticipate a shortfall.

- *Would you consider a year end gift in 2024 to help us close that gap?*

Two, consider your financial commitment in 2025. When you pledge a gift, it helps us to set a more realistic budget plan for the year ahead. When you receive the pledge 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 sharing love?*

Three, a stretch goal. We've expanded some of our Children and Youth programming this year. Gifts from the Foundation support our two Youth Ministry Interns. Dollars from our reserves make possible a well attended mindfulness class for kids. Next year, in order to sustain these meaningful programs we need to put them into our budget. This would be an addition of \$7500 to our annual ministry budget.

- *Could you increase your gifts in 2025 to prioritize our Children and Youth?*
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Why we give. We give because our values as people of faith call us to build a courageous community for us and for our children. Our values call us to love and serve both neighbor and stranger. *How will your gifts of time and treasure reflect our shared values?*

Our Values:

- **Enough grace.** We receive grace through God's unconditional love. We in turn, share this grace in our faith community, through acts of service, and in a call to work for justice in all of creation.
- **Enough space.** There is room to grow and be transformed. We affirm that faith evolves, so we make space for questions, skepticism and doubt.
- **Enough courage.** We have the audacity to believe that we are here for a reason. We gather with boldness. We are sent out with purpose. We courageously share the hope within us.
- **Enough hope.** Through times of both hardship and celebration we have found hope in God. We stand ready to share this hope with a hurting world. We are eager to be a part of true equity, inclusion for all, and restitution for past failures.
- **Enough to share.** We affirm that each person, created in God's image, has valuable gifts to offer. We empower one another to share the love of God in unique and meaningful ways. We encourage, nurture, and celebrate generosity in all forms.
- **Enough, and then some.** We extend this invitation to all. We open our doors to creative expressions of worship, radical acts of hospitality, and faith-filled endeavors toward love of neighbor.