



October 28, 2008

Dear Friends,

This is a letter from your 2008 Pledge Campaign Committee (Doug Blanchard, Dan Bland, Kay Miller, Janis Schwarz, John Taylor and Larry Wheeler).

About a year ago we wrote to you about the CLPC pledging campaign. What a year it has been! Pastor Steve is on board, hurray! Katy and Tim have moved on with their careers, and we wish them the best. Hmingi is here, and we are joyful. With our blessing, Kim departed to further her career and education, and Shannan has stepped up with wonderful leadership for our children in Christian Education. Reg has been promoted to the great choir of heavenly hosts, and we miss him dearly. Our musicians have rallied behind Sandra's talented direction. Ike blew through as a most unwelcome guest. The election is pending and the economy ... well, who knows!?!

As we experience unsettling change in our lives and in the lives of those around us, we are mindful of God's unwavering love and God's everlasting gift of grace. As we reflect and assess where we are, our hearts fill with gratitude for all the gifts God continues to give us. The theme for the stewardship campaign a few years ago was "Living in Grace and Gratitude" ... never has that been more true than now.

Our central message remains the same. Stewardship is a life long journey of many steps. All of us are at different stages of that journey.

- For some it is deciding to give to the church at all
- For others it is developing the discipline to give regularly
- For some it is making a pledge as a commitment and as a declaration of their faith
- For others it is moving from a pledge of a fixed amount to a percent of their income
- The biblical goal is to move to a 10% tithe, and some have made that commitment ... and Jesus challenges us to go even beyond!

Your commitment last year was exceptional. The breadth and depth of our pledged commitment to the work of God touched many lives in our congregation, in our community and in the world. Our unified commitment was important to all of us, especially as we transitioned to a new pastor ... the message was not lost on Steve either. The enclosure gives some facts and figures.

Our goal is that each of us makes a thoughtful, intentional commitment about giving. The decision is about dollars and cents, but it is equally about challenge, courage, and trust as we strive to be both bold and wise. The decision is about money, the commitment is about faith. We encourage you to prayerfully decide and then declare your commitment by filling out a pledge card.

Pledge weekend is November 15th and 16th. In the coming days and weeks we will be giving you more details about pledging.

Living in the priceless grace of God,

Your Pledge Campaign Committee

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Exceptional Commitment

Last year, 222 members and families pledged. There were 35 new pledges, 71 pledges that stayed the same, 84 pledges that were increased, 28 pledges that were reduced, and there were 4 pledging families that moved away. In terms of stewardship as a life long journey of many steps, more than half of the commitments (new and increased pledges) were courageous steps forward in faith. Many others were able to make the commitment to maintain their pledges or to commit to a reduced pledge.

Your commitment last year was exceptional – truly a unified expression of commitment as a “giving” body of Christ.

Every year, CLPC uses the pledging campaign results to project a total giving amount and the corresponding budget. Last year, based on your pledges, we projected the highest giving ever. The total (\$1.62 million) was 7% higher giving than the previous year (\$1.53 million). WOW! Yet, the good news about your giving does not stop there. Through August, you have given almost 5% more than the year-to-date projected giving (\$1.09 million versus \$1.04 million). For the same period, the actual expenses are slightly less (2%) than the budgeted expenses for this point in time.

Although the capital budget income (“Now Finish the Work”) is down from last year at this time, the total giving through August has been sufficient to continue to aggressively reduce the principal amount of the loan. It is now under \$3.5 million versus almost \$3.8 million at the beginning of the year.

God’s grace is overwhelming! Our giving is a powerful statement of our gratitude!

Ministry Fund Income

