



Dear Christ and St. Luke's,

Stewardship season is upon us; the time when we appeal to you for pledges of financial support so that we can fund the mission and ministry of our beloved church. As we enter this season, here is where we find ourselves: we have an exciting building renovation that is just a few months from completion and are finalizing plans for a marvelous redesign of our beloved Lychgate Garden, both of which will benefit our parish for generations to come and will require more money to complete. At the same time, we have an annual operating budget to fund, of which parishioner pledge payments account for almost 90% of the total. Given those realities, after much discussion, your Vestry has decided that this year, our stewardship campaign will be a dual ask: one pledge to help us complete our capital campaign and one pledge to help fund our annual operating budget for 2023. Because this is a church with a history of generous and gracious support from its parishioners, for which we are incredibly grateful, we believe we can do both. But we're going to need your help.

Build the Future: Complete the Campaign!

Over the last two years as building material costs have sky-rocketed,ⁱ inflation has increased,ⁱⁱ and supply chains delays have extended timelines, we have seen the cost of our building renovation similarly affected. At the same time, in order to finish the job we set out to do, we are undertaking the necessary enhancement of the Lychgate Garden. Therefore, to fulfill the vision of this capital campaign—to restore and renew our buildings and grounds, to preserve our parish's past and prepare it for the future—we need to raise an additional \$2 million dollars. The great news is thanks to some incredibly generous parishioners who believe in the vision of this project and the future of this parish, we have already raised over \$1.65 million dollars towards this effort. That means we need your help to raise the remaining **\$350,000**. We think that goal is very much in reach and the more generous each of us can be, the faster we will reach it. As a sign of their support, every member of your Capital Campaign Steering Committee and your Vestry has made an additional pledge towards the completion of this campaign. My thanks to them for their leadership and commitment to this project, and my thanks to you for your willingness to help us complete it!

In this envelope you will find a card on ivory paper with information about how to make your pledge to the capital campaign. It is our hope that those who have pledged in the past will make an additional commitment, and we hope those who have not yet contributed will join us for the first time. Payments can be made over 2-3 years, but keep in mind the faster we receive payments, the faster we can cover our costs. You can fill out the physical card and mail it back to the church or go online to christandstlukes.org/capital to make your pledge.

Annual Campaign

As we complete this capital campaign, we also need to accomplish our annual task of funding our operating budget. These are the funds we use to pay for the ongoing expenses of running the parish as well as financing things like our outreach ministries, parish programs, and staff salaries. To accomplish all the good, exciting things our new physical infrastructure will allow us to do, we need a personnel infrastructure to match. And so, this year, after so

many years of generous investment in our buildings, we are asking you to invest in our people just as generously, by providing for our current staff and building up our staff team to meet our parish's current and future needs. Our top priorities for the 2023 annual operating budget are:

- **Cost of Living Adjustment for Staff:** with inflation being so high, and in recognition of their extraordinary efforts through less-than-ideal working conditions, the staff who have been employed for over a year deserve a cost of living adjustment for 2023.
- **Full-Time Associate Priest:** As we seek to grow in numbers and in faith, we need to hire a full-time Associate Priest to share in the liturgical and pastoral duties of a parish of this size and lend their voice and vision to this chapter of life at Christ and St. Luke's.
- **Part-Time Administrative Assistant:** As Christ and St. Luke's becomes an even greater leader within the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, the city of Norfolk, and the Hampton Roads region, we need more administrative support. I hope we will be able to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant to help with many of the important details that allow a parish like ours to run smoothly.

With these needs in mind, and factoring in the regular yearly increases of other operating expenses, we have set our annual appeal goal at **\$1.1 million dollars**. If you have pledged in the past, we ask you to consider making a 15% increase to your annual pledge to help us reach that goal. And if you have never made a pledge to Christ and St. Luke's, we strongly encourage you to do so. With full, generous participation from the parish, we can reach this goal, but our ability to get there will depend on everyone's contribution.

In this envelope you will find a white pledge card emblazoned with our **This is the Day** logo. Please fill it out and return it to the church or go online to christandstlukes.org/pledge to make your pledge to our Annual Operating Budget.

If you have any questions at all about how to pledge or want to check on past annual or capital pledges, please feel free to reach out to Michelle Sturges our Business Administrator. If it is helpful for you as you are prayerfully considering your two pledges, we have created a webpage that explains the different types of financial giving at christandstlukes.org/givingexplained. And if your financial situation requires you to choose between making a capital or annual pledge, please do make your annual pledge the priority.

We ask you to please send in your pledges by Sunday, November 13th.

After many years of sacrifice, patience, and prayer, we have so many exciting opportunities ahead of us this year. Your financial generosity, as well as your gifts of time, energy, and spirit, are what has seen us to this point and they, along with the grace of God, are what will carry us forward into that exciting future. ***This is the day*** to make your pledge to help us complete our capital campaign and fund our operating budget for the year to come. Thank you for all you give to this church. And thanks be to God, from whom all these and so many other blessings flow.

This is the Day!

Fr. Noah

ⁱ <https://eyeonhousing.org/2022/05/building-materials-prices-move-higher-up-19-year-over-year/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.quickdrawfundcontrol.com/2022-the-second-half-will-construction-costs-continue-to-rise/>