



GIVING: A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
SUPPORT LIFE AT GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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October 11, 2018 | Giving: A Spiritual Practice

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*

1 Chronicles 29:14

Dear Members, Newcomers, and Friends of Grace-St. Luke's Church,

Our first calling as a faith community is to move deeper in our relationships with Christ and one another. We, as examples of and witnesses to the power of God's love, are empowered by the gift of life and abundance to be good stewards of creation and the Church by sharing our blessings. As Christian stewards, our response is profound gratitude, and flowing from it, generosity.

Giving is primarily a spiritual decision, reached after careful and prayerful thought, and reflecting on our spiritual life – about feeling and showing joyful thanksgiving for God's grace and trusting that, in and by God, all good things are possible. At Grace-St. Luke's, all parishioners are called by faith to commit hearts to *giving: a spiritual practice*. Today, we invite each of you to join us in this practice by the holy act of pledging to support GSL for 2019 by All Saints' Sunday, November 4. Your pledge (estimate of giving) will be invaluable as the vestry, staff, and ministry area leaders collaborate with the rector on planning for the future of this incredible parish in midtown Memphis.

Grace-St. Luke's responds to the mission of the Church through weekly worship opportunities, formation offerings, pastoral care to the sick and suffering, and numerous outreach and new justice initiatives to offer hope and make impacts on Memphis. Our fellowship events draw the parish community together, connecting one another and cultivating community as part of our covenant with God. Exceptional music for worship feeds souls while the little Food Pantry with a big heart feeds bodies; all are possible only through the significant contributions of time, talent, and treasure from parishioners. Indeed, we are blessed beyond measure by who we are and what we offer. Now, as followers of Jesus, we are asked to practice giving with even more gratitude.

This year, all are asked to consider the 10% tithe as a pledge goal or to make an incremental increase from the last pledge made to GSL or another community. Each pledge is an outward expression of gratitude for the blessings we receive from God and will be a meaningful component of the three-fold ministry of giving time, talent, and treasure. Your spiritual practice of responding to God's love and abundance in the form of a financial commitment to Grace-St. Luke's will help to ensure our parish continues to grow and thrive in countless important ways.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to Grace-St. Luke's and make your pledge for 2019 by returning the enclosed Pledge Form to the church office, by placing it in the alms basin (offering plate), or by pledging online at www.gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving before or on November 4.

In faith and gratitude for life at Grace-St. Luke's,

Suzanne Busby, Hal Medling, Michael Rowland, and Robin Wigginson
2019 Stewardship Chairs