

ANNUAL GIVING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

I give in church on Sundays. Why do I need to complete a pledge card?

Your pledge helps us plan. When we know what our community intends to give, we can budget wisely and make sure all of the programs and ministries we're planning can actually happen. It's a spiritual commitment, and it's also the practical, real-world way we sustain the life of our church together.

What are Saint Luke's sources of income?

Over ninety percent of Saint Luke's budget comes from giving to our Annual Appeal, with the remainder coming from loose offerings in church and space rentals.

What about our Parish Endowment?

Saint Luke's is blessed with a relatively small but growing endowment dedicated to supporting capital improvements on our campus. No income from the endowment is used to fund annual operating expenses. The Investment Committee takes a conservative and prudent approach to using the endowment income, and distributions are managed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, with Vestry oversight.

Does the Diocese contribute toward our expenses?

Saint Luke's receives no funding from the diocese; in fact, we are asked to contribute approximately 10% of our budget each year to support the work of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). As one of the largest parishes in CT, we play a vital role in supporting the work and witness of our church throughout the state.

How does our recent capital campaign affect the parish budget?

We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity so many of you showed toward our capital campaign. Your gifts will shape the life of Saint Luke's for generations to come. It's important to know, though, that capital campaign funds are dedicated entirely for the major projects and improvements we planned together. None of that money goes toward our parish's day-to-day operating budget. Our ministries, programs, staff, and the everyday costs of keeping our doors open depend on annual pledges, which is why your pledge this year matters as much as ever.

How can I pay my pledge to Saint Luke's?

There are a variety of ways you can make gifts to Saint Luke's, including online giving, mailing a check, transferring securities, and more. Saint Luke's is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, meaning your gifts to Saint Luke's are tax deductible. Visit our website or contact the Parish Offices for more information. There may be a tax advantage to accelerating your charitable giving in 2026. As always, please consult your legal and financial advisors when planning your gifts to Saint Luke's.



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I give to many charities. Why should I give more to Saint Luke's?

At Saint Luke's, we believe we are called to pray, work, and give for the spread of God's kingdom, and we know that kingdom shows up in many places. Supporting the good work of schools, hospitals, institutions, and other nonprofits is a meaningful part of how we steward the gifts God has given us. Many people find, however, that giving to the church is unique because of the church's place in our lives as our spiritual home: the place we return to week after week to be grounded, fed, and reminded of who we are and who we are meant to be. It's where we celebrate and grieve, where our children grow in faith, and where we find a community in which we can truly share the journey of life together.

How much should I give?

Ultimately, that is between you and God! We believe that financial stewardship is an important part of our Christian discipleship – both as a way of expressing our faith, and as a way of growing in faith. In the Bible, a tithe (10%) is held up as the standard for giving to God: the people are to give the first ten percent of the harvest (“first fruits”) as an act of worship. While tithing may be a difficult place to begin for many first-time givers, the concept of proportional giving can be helpful. We invite you to calculate what portion of your income you think you can reasonably give this year and to make a pledge for that amount. Next year, try to raise your pledge by a reasonable percentage as your work toward a tithe. You may not be able to raise your pledge some years; some years you may even have to lower it. However, if we know what percentage of our income our giving is, we will know how we are doing year over year as we work toward a goal of greater generosity.



Consider the chart below to explore your 2027 pledge options.

To use the chart, first find your annual income in the left hand column. Then, move to the right to see options for weekly giving amounts and consider how you could grow one step in your weekly giving to Saint Luke's.

WEEKLY GIFT ►	FIRST-TIME GIVING			CONSISTENT GIVING			SACRIFICIAL GIVING			TITHE	JOYFUL TITHING	
ANNUAL INCOME ▼	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	12%	15%
\$20,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$23	\$27	\$31	\$35	\$38	\$46	\$58
\$50,000	10	19	29	38	48	58	67	77	87	96	115	144
\$70,000	13	27	40	54	67	81	94	108	121	135	162	202
\$100,000	19	38	58	77	96	115	135	154	173	192	231	288
\$250,000	48	96	144	192	240	288	337	385	433	481	577	721
\$500,000	96	192	288	385	481	577	673	769	865	962	1,154	1,442
\$750,000	144	288	433	577	721	865	1,010	1,154	1,298	1,442	1,731	2,163
\$1,000,000	192	385	577	769	962	1,154	1,346	1,538	1,731	1,923	2,308	2,885
\$1,500,000	288	577	865	1,154	1,442	1,731	2,019	2,308	2,596	2,885	3,462	4,327
\$2,000,000	385	769	1,154	1,538	1,923	2,308	2,692	3,077	3,462	3,846	4,615	5,769