



CATHOLIC CHURCH  
IN MINT HILL

Dear Friend in Christ,

First, I want to thank you for all you do for St. Luke, and for each other. I know so many of you give to St. Luke in so many ways. Our more than 50 active ministries attest to that. I am sending you this letter to introduce our 2011 Stewardship theme: *Treasure in Action -- Transforming Lives*, and to talk a little about how, through our collective commitment to offering our Time, Talent and Treasure to God and His Church, we can transform lives.

As the theme suggests, this year we want to highlight Stewardship of Treasure. Along with time and talent, sharing our treasure is essential to help us transform lives here in our church community and in the local and global community. Many of those more than 50 ministries receive funding from our weekly offering. With this funding we are able to:

- bring the Eucharist to our children for the first time,
- provide a hot meal, warm bed, and fellowship to a homeless person,
- offer forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
- save an unborn child,
- give love to the dying in Jamaica,
- befriend someone who just moved here and knows no-one,
- encourage a young mother,
- and so much more.

We can only do these things through the generous gifts of your time, talent and treasure. This year, we are asking you to sign a stewardship of treasure commitment... that is we are asking that you prayerfully determine the amount of your treasure that you can commit to St. Luke each week or month, to help us continue to transform lives. Knowing the amount of funds coming in each week or month allows for better budgeting and planning so we can say yes to more of those in need of food, shelter, guidance, spiritual growth, encouragement. So you see, your weekly offering does more than keep the lights on here at St. Luke... it helps to shine the light of Christ to so many.

We have provided more information for you about how Stewardship at St. Luke is transforming lives, as well as a Treasure Intention form, a Time and Talent commitment form (the gold sheet), and a return envelope for your privacy. Please review the rest of the materials in this packet and prayerfully consider what you can share of your time, talent and treasure. Both the intention form and the commitment form can be returned in the Offertory basket any Sunday, or mail or bring them to the church office.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Q. Gary  
Pastor



## Treasure in Action -- Transforming Lives Stewardship at St. Luke



Your commitment to the weekly offering does more than keep the lights on at St Luke... it helps to shine the light of Christ to so many...

### Yourself

"...the one overwhelming change in life has been a deepening of my Faith. I really trust that God loves me and will take care of me." (PS, St. Luke)

"...When my daughter was born, someone from church brought me dinner. Because of this blessing, I have been involved ever since. So you can see both sides of stewardship — receiving that leads to giving." (JB, St. Luke)



**Feeding the Community**

*"What shall I return to the Lord for all the Lord has given me?"*

Psalm 116:12

### Your Family

"St. Luke's parishioners donated over \$12,000 to help our son when a tragic fire claimed his home and his girls, Elena and Olivia. The continued prayer and support from parishioners has sustained us through this tragedy." (L&FP, St. Luke)

"My family was my focus...we shared many Church activities as a family. Helping others became a part of our lives when the children participated in the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. (MP, St. Luke)

"I guess it is called Stewardship, but I did not know the word and simply believed it to be the way of life. At first I decided to avail myself for any physical help that other groups in church needed, and, after a while, people started to invite me to their groups and ministries. I guess they liked what they saw in me, and amazingly, I got to know a lot of people and made many, many friends. So my social life benefited as a result of that. God works in mysterious ways, and I have always tried to teach that to my children." (HR, St. Luke)

### Your Parish

Giving of time, talent and treasure at St. Luke provides opportunities to transform our parish family.

"My involvement gives me an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our Creator for the gifts I have been given. ... Stewardship on my part sets an example for my children. It shows them that their baptism gives them the responsibility to "do unto others". Although my schedule is full, my life and the gifts I have received are fuller. It is my joy and my heart's satisfaction to be part of these ministries. St Luke's makes it easy to want to give of my time, talent, and treasure." (JL, St. Luke)

With your help we can do so many things to transform each other's lives through the wonderful opportunities to get to know and love God and each other:

- Bring God's word, First Communion and Confirmation to our own children
- Share in a beautiful and meaningful Liturgy through music and fellowship
- Bring new Catholics into the fold through RCIA
- Have Pancake Breakfasts, Fall Festivals, and other celebrations
- Befriend someone who just moved here.

### Your World Community

The benefits of your time, talent and treasure at St. Luke are not limited to the Church. Many of our ministries transform the lives of others in the Charlotte community, other parts of the US, and internationally, and they depend on funding from St. Luke parishioners to function and to serve. Here are some ways your stewardship is used for others:

- Provide a hot meal, warm bed, and fellowship to a homeless person
- Tell a prisoner that God loves them
- Save an unborn child
- Give love to the dying in Jamaica
- Build shelters for the poor in Appalachia
- Provide school supplies and help to students in the Thomasboro school in Charlotte
- Feed the hungry here and abroad

### Community Building

- Attend a MoMS' Event and Pray for Moms (MoMS)
- Provide Refreshments for New Parishioner Orientation (Welcome Committee)
- Provide information at Welcome Table (Welcome Committee)
- Call (new) Parishioners for welcome/ follow-up (Welcome/Stewardship)
- Join the Young Adult Ministry
- Help organize/plan or work on Fall Festival (Fall Festival)
- Provide desserts for Fall Festival Bake Sale (HOPE)
- Join the Stewardship Committee
- Supply food for Funeral Masses (HOPE)
- Visit and/or distribute Communion to the sick/homebound (HOPE)
- Join Parish Cub or Boy Scouts
- Use/ help in Parish Cooperative Nursery
- Be a part of the Hispanic Ministry
- Take pictures at Church events (Administration)
- Join Knights of Columbus
- Pray for the unborn and their mothers and an end to Abortion (Respect Life)
- Join Young At Heart (Seniors Group)
- Join the Columbarium Committee
- Pray for St. Luke's Parish Community
- Meet with others providing care for relatives (Caregivers Support)

### Outreach

- Bake cookies, write a letter or pray for Men's Prison Ministry (Kairos)
- Bring non-perishable items to Church for Food Pantry
- Deliver meals for Friendship Trays
- Give Blood or help at Blood Drive
- Attend Mission Trip to Jamaica, Dominican Republic or Appalachians (Agape)
- Support Thomasboro School Projects
- Provide supplies for Mission Trips (Agape)
- Supply food for Room in the Inn
- Transport Guests to/from Church for Room in the Inn
- Spend a night with Guests for Room in the Inn
- Provide desserts for Men's Shelter (3rd Sunday) (Homeless Shelter)
- Participate in Crop Walk
- Provide minor car maintenance to those who can't afford it (Car Care)
- Become involved with others working for peace (Pax Christi)
- Participate in the Christmas Giving Tree (Giving Tree/Refugee Ministry)

### Education

- Join Small Faith Group
- Join the Parish Book Club
- Teach, co-teach or offer support to Faith Formation
- Join or help with the Youth Ministry (Teens for Christ)
- Help with or join Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
- Interested in Working with Other Faith Communities (Ecumenical Committee)
- Attend/Be involved with Adult Religious Education events
- Attend Weekly Bible Study
- Join or help with a Venturing crew (for 14 to 20 year old boys/ girls)

### Worship and Spiritual Life

- Attend Mass and Pray with Fellow Parishioners
- Attend a Parish Mission (Worship & Spiritual Life)
- Become a Mass Lector
- Become a Minister of Communion
- Become an Altar Server (young person) and/or support Ministry (adult)
- Participate in a Church Choir / children or adult (Music Ministry)
- Take up collections and seat parishioners at Mass (Mass Coordinators/ushers)
- Help decorate worship space (Environment Ministry)
- Be a part of Children's Liturgy during Sunday worship
- Attend weekly Scriptural Rosary
- Help with Porter Ridge Holiday Masses (WSL)
- Help with Retreats and or Missions (WSL)

### Administration and Finance

- Contribute to future Building/Land Acquisition Campaign
- Commit to regular financial contributions to St. Luke Catholic Church
- Help St. Luke "Go Green" by receiving statements/reports via Email
- Help count Sunday collection/ offertory on Monday mornings
- Join the Parish Servant Leadership Team (SLT/Parish Council)
- Join the Finance Council or help with fundraising efforts
- Volunteer for Spring/Fall Church Grounds Clean Up (Facilities/maintenance)
- Help with Parish Garden Maintenance and Cleaning (Gardening and Faith)

Please complete other side

## Covenant for Stewardship



As an act of faith in the present, with a spirit of hope for the future, and as a grateful gesture of love for the blessings of the past, I wish to renew a personal covenant with Jesus. I understand by committing myself to be a wise and prudent steward of my time, talent and treasure, I will enhance and enrich the quality of my faith life and the faith life of my parish community. I wish for this opportunity to be a moment of grace and blessing for myself and the entire parish community. I would like to commit my time and talent to show my gratitude to the Lord.

Please check off the appropriate **new** ministry opportunities on the **other side of this form** and /or write in other areas where you can help below.

Please use one sheet for each person in your family who elects to participate in Stewardship. For additional copies, please visit [www.stlukechurch.net](http://www.stlukechurch.net), go to the Quick Links tab and click on All Forms and find the Stewardship form, or ask for a copy at the church office.

Once you have indicated your **new** ministry opportunities, please complete the information box below, and bring the form to the church office. We have provided a separate Stewardship of Treasure Intention form and envelope for your privacy. Please remember to also complete the Stewardship of Treasure Intention form. Thank you so much and God Bless you!

<p><b>Name of Person (Print)</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____ _____</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Envelope #:</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to the email blast list. Please specify the newsletter(s) you wish to subscribe to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Faith Formation News</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> General Information &amp; Events</li></ul>
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<p><b>Other Areas I can volunteer to help (i.e. computer skills, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, printing, handyman, etc.)</b> _____ _____</p>
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*"There are different gifts but the same spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."* 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

**Treasure in Action - Transforming Lives**  
**St. Luke Stewardship of Treasure Intention Form**



**Stewardship** is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus; and where it has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed.

**How much should I give to St. Luke?**

Giving of our time, talent and treasure mainly involves a change of attitude about giving. It's important to think in terms of giving in gratitude to God, of considering how blessed you are, of using your resources for the good of others. Once you have this change of attitude, you will be able to more readily determine, through prayer and planning, the portion of your time, talent, and treasure that you will give.

When you are at peace about the size of your gift, when you do not find yourself making excuses for its size, when you know in your heart that you have been completely honest with God and yourself, then your gift is the proper size.

Once **you** decide the amount of your treasure that you will give to charities overall, you then need to decide how much you will contribute to St. Luke's Offertory each month. Below is a suggestion, for your consideration, of how to distribute your charitable giving.

**Example**  
**If Your Monthly Charitable Giving is \$200**

Category	Amount
St. Luke General Offertory	\$100
Upcoming Building Fund	\$50
Diocesan Support Appeal	\$25
Other charities	\$25

Please complete the intention form and bring it to Mass or to the church office. You may also log onto [www.stlukechurch.net/edonations.cfm](http://www.stlukechurch.net/edonations.cfm) and sign up for e-donations. **Thank you for your support.**

Personal Information	My/Our Offering
Last name of family _____	<i>In prayerful thanksgiving for the many blessings from God, this is my / our financial commitment toward St. Luke's Offertory fund to support our Parish: (Please complete <u>one</u>)</i>
First name _____	
Spouse _____	
Street address _____	\$ _____ Weekly      \$ _____ Quarterly
City _____ State ____ Zip _____	\$ _____ Monthly      \$ _____ Annually
Phone _____	Signature _____
Email _____	Envelope # _____ Date _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>I am interested in finding out more about the automatic draft program. Please contact me.</b>