



Pilgrim Lutheran

CHURCH and SCHOOL

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.... Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Hebrews 11: 1, 39-40

October 30, 2015

Dear Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Sunday, November 8th is Commitment Sunday. Each of us will have an opportunity, in the context of worship and thanksgiving, make an offering commitment for 2016 and to consider making a commitment to the "Growing Forward" Capital Campaign if we have not already done so.

We invite you to:

1. Read this letter, pray, and thank God for all the blessings in your life and in our church
2. Consult the Tithing Calculator on the back of the commitment card
3. Consult the Capital Campaign chart on the front of the commitment card
4. Fill out the enclosed Commitment Card
5. Consider going to our giving page at www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org and clicking on the "Online Giving" tab at the top in order to set up a monthly gift to General Stewardship Offering and/or the Growing Forward Fund.
6. Place the card in the provided envelope and bring it to the worship service on November 8th to be shared as an offering.

Why do we give offerings to the church? Two main reasons include: 1) we believe in God and 2) we believe the church is making a difference.

First, we believe in God through the gift of faith. The root of the Greek word for faith, *pistis* is from the verb *peithô* ("to persuade, be persuaded") which supplies the *essence* of faith. Through Jesus, God has **persuaded** us that we are *loved* beyond measure. *Forgiven* from a broken past. *Assured* of a future with God in heaven. And *set free* to live with conviction, compassion, and creativity. Through pure grace, we are persuaded to live lives of commitment, grounded in community, and reaching out to a world hungry for connection.

Giving isn't something we have to do... it's something we get to do.

Kristian Johnson, Pastor
Gathering, Preparing and Sending

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Chris Comella, Principal
Academic Excellence with a Heart

And secondly, we believe the church is making a difference. What a blessing it has been to hear the testimonies during our "Faith Is..." worship series this past month. Thank you to Theresa, Anna-Kari, Jeanne, Bianka, and confirmands Joe, Hayden, and Erin for inspiring us to treasure our faith. Be encouraged by an excerpt from one of our 9th graders, Hayden:

Pilgrim is such a place of enjoyment for me, because Pilgrim is a family that cares. I learned in confirmation it's easy to lose yourself if you don't stay in touch with God. Now that I've been in high school for 3 months, I can see how people can be corrupted by getting caught up *in things that don't matter*. The most important thing that I keep with me is always to stay in touch with God no matter where I go.

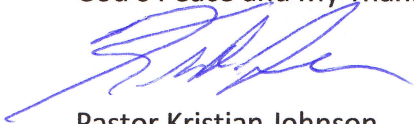
I love Hayden's pastoral warning to avoid "getting caught up in things that don't matter." Faith is what matters.

It's been a very positive fall so far at Pilgrim... we have had 7 prospective families come to tour the school in October alone, and we have 5 families that are currently attending new member classes, preparing to join in November. We now have four small groups meeting in homes, a new format for our Sunday School, and the added energy of our seminarians learning among us, Hans and Marissa. We are looking forward to a strong holiday season of growth and impact!

Because Anna-Kari and I believe in God and believe that Pilgrim is making a difference, we are increasing our tithes in our worship offerings to \$620 a month, and are increasing our commitment to the Capital Campaign to \$150 a month. We have chosen to give electronically... it is more convenient for us and more beneficial to Pilgrim.

We hope you will prayerfully consider the ways God is inspiring you to give in this season of gratitude and fruitfulness!

God's Peace and My Thanks,



Pastor Kristian Johnson

Pilgrim Financials: At a glance

Overall:

Thanks to the strong leadership and generosity of many, we ended 2014 with a greatly minimized deficit. We ended our last fiscal period, a “stump” year (January through June 2015) \$7,947 in the black. This year, as we find ourselves four months into our new fiscal year schedule (July ‘15 to June ‘16), we are currently in the black.

School Finances:

Thanks to the commitment of our teachers, strong leadership, a slight increase in enrollment vs. projections, and generous giving, we are currently on pace overall. We have collected \$229,875 in tuition so far, which is above our projected budget number of \$208,037. However, there are three factors to keep in mind. 1) The tuition assistance fund is currently at \$24,056, and we have committed financial aid and staff discounts totaling \$49,797. 2) We have a handful of families who have paid this school year’s tuition up front, and 3) we have been informed that in January of 2016, our staff’s health benefits will be increasing by 14% and disability benefits will be increased by 2%. We are thankful for all the members, friends, parents, and alumni who are giving to our tuition assistance fund.

Worship Offerings: While our September 2015 offerings were higher than our September 2014 numbers, our 1st quarter total is short of expectations, having received \$31,319 through September 30th, which is under our budgeted, year-to-date expectations of \$41,250. We are grateful for all who choose to make larger offerings as the calendar year comes to an end.

Growing Forward Capital Campaign 2015-2017: As of September 30th, we have received \$55,978 in contributions toward our goal of raising \$300,000 for much needed improvements. Completed projects include installing new carpet tiles in our classrooms, phase one of our new playground renovation, Energy saving retrofitting to our lighting, and lead mitigation work in our teacherages. If we were to be on pace with our receipts, we would be approaching \$100,000 in receipts as we approach the end of the calendar year... your generosity is appreciated.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School

2015-2017 Growing Forward Capital Campaign Update

Dear Pilgrim Congregation,

As we quickly approach Commitment Sunday on November 8th, the Capital Campaign Committee wanted to provide you with an update for where we stand currently with the Growing Forward Campaign. Please find below the details noting the overall giving towards the three-year campaign, what projects and disbursements have been completed this year and what is anticipated to be accomplished in 2016. We ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the Growing Forward Campaign for the balance of our three years of commitment, so we can continue to fund necessary projects and initiatives focused around our church, school and the greater community. Please let either Gerhard or me know if you have any questions or ideas centered on Pilgrim Lutheran's Growing Forward Campaign.

Thank you very much,

Jim Volkens and Gerhard Boecler
Growing Forward Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

ACTUAL 2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME AS OF 9/30/15

Balance from last Capital Campaign	\$49,537.80
Contributions	\$55,978.61
Totals	\$105,516.41

2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS AND DISBURSEMENTS COMPLETED TO DATE

Project Description	Amount
Energy Auto Retrofit	\$1,905.00
Lead Mitigation for 4314 #1 - (1st half)	\$3,050.00
Lighting Project - ComEd SBES incentive program	\$2,005.00
New Windows for 4314 N. Winchester #2	\$1,800.00
Reimburse for Hotel for occupants of 4314 Winchester during lead abatement	\$356.61
Extra charge for Hotel for occupants of 4314 Winchester during lead abatement	\$34.92
Lead Mitigation for 4314 #1 - (2nd half)	\$3,050.00
Full payment for Change Order of lead mitigation dated 3/23/15	\$2,200.00
Good Gifts Family Farm	\$715.00
Walk for Water	\$800.00
Carpet tiles	\$12,797.72
Carpet tiles	\$12,797.72
School Roof	\$21,875.00
Capital Loan Principal	\$8,164.53
Capital Loan Interest	\$6,171.47
Mission Gifts	\$5,000.00
Playlot Refurbishing Project	\$2,500.00
Total	\$85,222.97
2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 9/30/15	\$18,245.44

PROPOSED 2016 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Description	Amount
Mission Gift Fund	\$5,000.00
Phase #1 School Classroom Window Replacement	\$50,000.00
Teacherage Exterior and Interior Tuckpointing	\$12,800.00
Teacherage Drywall and Paint	\$1,000.00

General Stewardship/Offering Commitment



Pilgrim Lutheran
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Please choose one of these options:

Per week \$_____ or

Per month \$_____ or

Per year \$_____

And/Or a one-time gift of \$_____ to be given by (date)_____

For those of you who have already made a commitment to the “Growing Forward” Capital Campaign, check here _____ (and there is no need to fill out the bottom of this card)

“Growing Forward” Commitment Pilgrim Capital Campaign Fund 2015-2017

With gratitude to God and to help the congregation complete the “Growing Forward” goals, I/we plan to give regularly and intentionally to the Growing Forward Capital Campaign as indicated below. This is over and above my/our regular giving to support the ongoing ministries of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School.

Please choose one of these options:

Per week \$_____ or Per month \$_____ or Per year \$_____

For a total of \$_____ to be given over the next 2 years.

And/Or a one-time gift of \$_____ to be given by (date)_____

Name(s) (please print)_____

Signature_____

Please consider this Giving Guide to help us reach our goal for the Growing Forward Capital Campaign.

1 gift of	\$30,000	(\$10,000 per year / \$192 per week)
3 gifts of	\$15,000	(\$5,000 per year / \$96 per week)
5 gifts of	\$10,000	(\$3,334 per year / \$64 per week)
6 gifts of	\$7,900	(\$2,634 per year / \$51 per week)
8 gifts of	\$5,300	(\$1,767 per year / \$34 per week)
14 gifts of	\$4,000	(\$1,334 per year / \$26 per week)
19 gifts of	\$2,500	(\$833 per year / \$16 per week)
23 gifts of	\$1,600	(\$533 per year / \$10 per week)
Many gifts of	\$780	(\$260 per year / \$5 per week)

Automatic Payments: Set up simple automatic payments through the Pilgrim website for either of these commitments by visiting:
www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org
then click the Online Giving Tab,
or call the office at 773-477-4824.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has..."
2nd Corinthians 8:12

Tithing Calculator

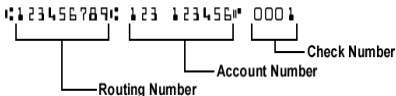
If your annual household income is...	A full tithe per month (10%) would be:	A Full tithe per week (10%) would be::	A 1/2 tithe per month (5%)	A 1/2 tithe per week (5%) would be:	A 1/4 tithe per month (5%)	A 1/4 per week (2.5%)	
\$15,000.00	\$125.00	\$28.84	\$62.50	\$14.42	\$31.25	\$7.21	
\$25,000.00	\$208.33	\$48.07	\$104.16	\$24.03	\$52.08	\$12.01	
\$35,000.00	\$291.66	\$67.30	\$145.83	\$33.65	\$72.91	\$16.82	
\$45,000.00	\$375.00	\$86.53	\$187.50	\$43.26	\$93.75	\$21.63	
\$55,000.00	\$458.33	\$105.76	\$229.16	\$52.88	\$114.44	\$26.44	
\$60,000.00	\$500.00	\$115.38	\$250.00	\$57.79	\$125.00	\$28.84	
\$65,000.00	\$541.66	\$125.00	\$270.83	\$62.50	\$135.41	\$31.25	
\$70,000.00	\$583.33	\$134.61	\$291.66	\$67.30	\$145.83	\$33.65	
\$80,000.00	\$667.66	\$153.84	\$333.33	\$76.92	\$167.66	\$38.46	
\$90,000.00	\$750.00	\$173.07	\$375.00	\$86.53	\$187.50	\$43.26	

To calculate your tithe exactly, You are also invited to go to: <http://www.anycalculator.com/tithecalculator.htm>

AUTHORIZATION FORM

GENERAL STEWARDSHIP OFFERING

The **Simply Giving** Program
endorsed by
 Thrivent Financial Bank®

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		DONOR #:	DATE:
Name of the organization: <u>Pilgrim Lutheran Church</u>			
Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address			
DONATION:			
Date of first donation: ____/____/____ Date of last donation (optional): ____/____/____		Frequency of donation: (please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	
		Amount of first donation: \$ ____ Amount of last donation (optional): \$ ____ FUND: General Stewardship	
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit payment from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (staple a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ 
	I authorize the above organization and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		
CREDIT CARD	Please charge my donations to my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card		
	Credit Card Number:		Expiration Date:
	Name on Card:		
	Billing Address (if different from above):		
	I authorize the above organization and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my credit card in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the credit card): _____ Date: _____		

Please staple voided check over credit card section above if using checking account.

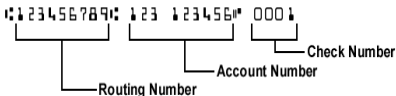
Your support is greatly appreciated.

To contribute to the GROWING FORWARD Fund, please use reverse side.

To enroll online, visit: www.PilgrimChurchandSchool.org and select "Online Giving."

AUTHORIZATION FORM

GROWING FORWARD FUND

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		DONOR #:	DATE:
Name of the organization: <u>Pilgrim Lutheran Church</u>			
Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address			
DONATION:			
Date of first donation: ____/____/____ Date of last donation (optional): ____/____/____		Frequency of donation: (please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	
		Amount of first donation: \$ ____ Amount of last donation (optional): \$ ____ FUND: Growing Forward	
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit payment from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (staple a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ 
	I authorize the above organization and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		
CREDIT CARD	Please charge my donations to my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card		
	Credit Card Number:		Expiration Date:
	Name on Card:		
	Billing Address (if different from above):		
	I authorize the above organization and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my credit card in accordance with the information above.		
	Signature (as it appears on the credit card): _____ Date: _____		

Please staple voided check over credit card section above if using checking account.

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