

**Dear saints of God and members of this household of faith.**

This is the time of year when our amazingly talented Finance Committee completes our annual congregational budget. Each year, I find myself asking the same sort of question as Andrew did to Jesus in St. John's version of the "Feeding of the Five Thousand" story. "*One of the disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to [Jesus], 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. **But what are they among so many people?**'*" (John 6: 8-9)

We are a congregation that numbers about 300 or so individuals, has an average Sunday worship attendance of about 100, and has an extremely lean budget, especially this year. How *do* we get by? What can we possibly do with seemingly so little?

Well, here is a brief review of just some of the things we are blessed and privileged to do:

- This congregation practices "**first fruits**" giving. Each year many thousands of dollars go to local organizations that provide all kinds of assistance. This is the first check written each month, even before bills and salaries. Page three of this letter shows our current list of giving.
  - We collected **1393 pounds of food** in 2009 for Food Gatherers in addition to financial benevolence.
  - We provide monthly financial support for Barbara Robertson, ELCA missionary in Tanzania.
  - We provided financial and "sweat equity" support for several Habitat for Humanity houses.
- We are faithful to our Synod benevolence (**an additional \$8000.00** per year). This money supports Gospel mission throughout the Southeast Michigan Synod as well as the large portion of money that our Synod forwards to the ELCA for its national and international work, much of which is humanitarian.
- Our quilting ministry provides dozens of beautiful quilts to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and to Washtenaw County Social Services.
- We provide *lots* of soap and essential items to Lutheran World Relief each year.
- We collect backpacks and other school supplies for LSSM each year.
- Members volunteer on a regular basis at the Delonis Center soup kitchen.
- Hundreds of people benefit each week because of the hospitality we extend to the various groups. Probably thousands over the years.
- We had a very meaningful, enriching adult mission trip to Biloxi, MS this past year.
- The senior high youth regularly attend the Lansing Gathering and they have participated in mission trips (supported by congregational funds.) They are also able to attend the ELCA National Gathering with our funding support.
- We have a full time Pastor, part time office assistant, and a reliable staffer who keeps our bathrooms clean.
- Many of you clean the rest of the church building to help provide a welcoming space for members and guests alike.
- We've been able to re-shingle our entire roof.
- Thanks to your donations, we have begun to renew our sanctuary with unique art, new lighting, and new windows (on order.)
- Our choir and accompanist are the envy of many a congregation!

This year through our strategic planning process, we will review our mission/vision and have a chance to look at "why" we do these things, what our calling, where we are going and what we should do next.

Your gifts of time, talent, and money **help make all these blessings possible.** Consider:

- Updating your time and talent contributions - see [attached](#) – your gifts of service.
- Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) as your “pledge in action.” If you currently give via EFT, **thank you.** If you do not participate, consider enrolling in EFT this year. Full information is available <http://www.kingofkingslutheran.org/stewards.htm>, or at the church and/or via our Financial Secretary, in confidence, Sharon Thompson.
- Updating your allocations: For all giving, the Finance Committee suggests members allocate their giving to King of Kings **with 20% to the Building/Mortgage Fund and 80% to Operating/General Funds this year.** For example, if you give \$100 to King of Kings, please allocate-designate \$20 to Building Expenses, and \$80 for general/operating expenses using EFT and/or offering envelopes. If you use EFT and allocate more than 20% to the Building/Mortgage, please contact Sharon Thompson within the next two weeks to update your percentages allocation. If you use paper envelopes, please update your allocations. EFT forms, stewardship messages and an explanation of the church envelopes is here: <http://www.kingofkingslutheran.org/stewards.htm>
- **As our budget is very lean this year, Council and Finance also request that you prayerfully consider a 5-10% increase in your giving, if you are able to do so.** Currently, our projected income for 2010 has declined due to job losses and the poor economy. **Your increased giving will enable us** to meet all of our benevolence and operating commitments.

#### **Synopsis of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), your church pledge in action**

King of Kings uses Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through Vanco’s Simply Giving program. This low-cost payment method periodically transfers funds from a member’s checking or savings account to a church’s bank account via the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network. This is a way for members to make donations automatically on a recurring basis, uninterrupted by vacations and other commitments, which greatly helps King of Kings **meet our monthly commitments** including benevolence and salaries. For years now, many King of Kings members have made recurring monthly, bi-monthly and weekly donations. **EFT greatly helps “first fruits” giving.**

**Members can also make EFT one-time donations at any time.** The process as simple as enrolling in the very secure Simply Giving program, using the same enrollment form with your bank information as those member who give regularly do. After you are enrolled with Vanco, send an email to the financial secretary, Sharon Thompson, or fill out an EFT form and put it mail it to the financial secretary mailbox. Describe your desired donation and frequency (one time, for three months, etc.) Through the financial secretary, members can, at anytime (48 hours required), add an amount, change your amount, hold a transaction, or cancel a transaction. Effective 2010 the church is charged a minimal fee of approximately .20 per transaction.

As you reflect on your blessings, please take a moment to reflect on your habits of gifts, talents, and on “first fruits” giving.

With gratitude to God and for our local community of faith,

*Michael Ryan, Pastor Deb Nystrom, Stewardship  
The King of Kings Church Council, Membership and Finance Committees*



**2009 Benevolence Contributions – Local Benevolence\***

\$600.00	Dawn Farm
\$600.00	Hope Clinic
\$600.00	Religious Action for Affordable Housing
\$600.00	LSSM
\$600.00	Lutheran World Relief
\$600.00	Friends in Deed
\$600.00	Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley
\$325.00	Annual tuition for Tanzanian student
\$300.00	Samaritan Counseling
\$250.00	Action for LSSM
\$250.00	House by the Side of the Road
\$250.00	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
\$250.00	Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw Co
\$250.00	HARC: HIV/AIDS Resource Center
\$250.00	Partners in Personal Assistance
\$200.00	Peace Neighborhood Center
\$200.00	Lord of Light Campus Ministry
\$200.00	Argentinian Church
\$100.00	Washtenaw Literacy
\$100.00	Living Water (Outdoor Ministry)
\$100.00	Corner Health Center
\$100.00	Motor Meals of Ann Arbor
\$550.00	Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley
\$415.00	Food Gatherers
\$150.00	Family Book Club
\$200.00	Sequoia Place - End of Year for Needed Items
\$400.00	SOS Community Services
<b>\$9,040.00</b>	<b>TOTAL LOCAL BENEVOLENCE</b>

\* **Local benevolence** does **NOT** include faithful contributions to our Synod benevolence (**an additional \$8000.00** per year). This money supports Gospel mission throughout the Southeast Michigan Synod as well as the large portion of money that our Synod forwards to the ELCA for its national and international work, much of which is humanitarian.

## King of Kings Church Family - Time and Talents 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*To serve in the listed areas, please check below.)*

### WORSHIP

- Assisting Minister ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Plan & Present Children's Sermons
- Host ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Greeter ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Communion Server ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Provide wine for communion
- Provide grape juice for communion
- Provide bread for communion
- Acolyte ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Nursery ( \_\_ 8:15am \_\_ 9:30 \_\_ 10:45 am)
- Worship *Committee*

### Music

- Accompanist
- Choir Member
- Choir Director
- Instrumental Music \_\_\_\_\_

### Drama Ministry (instrument)

- Actor/Actress
- Director
- Stage Hand
- Lighting and Sound
- Writer

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### Adult

- Adult Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study/Activity
- Women's Bible Study
- Single's Ministry
- Parents of Young Children
- Adult SS Leader
- Cradle Roll

#### Sunday School

- Sunday School Coordinator
- Teacher
- Substitute
- Assistant
- Music
- Vacation Bible School Teacher

#### Youth

- Middle School Youth Leader
- High School Youth Leader
- Special Events Planner
- Children & Youth Activities Volunteer
- Driver
- Trips/Camp Registration
- Chaperone
- Confirmation Resource Person
- Confirmation Teacher

### OUTREACH

- Evangelism *Committee*

#### Social Action

- Work Community Kitchen
- Free Trade chocolate/coffee sales after service
- Social Action *Committee*
- LSSM Action Representative
- LSSM Action *Committee*
- Habitat for Humanity

### Member Enrichment

- Bread Matcher
- Deliver Bread to visitors
- Sponsor a New Member
- Maintain Picture Board (requires digital camera)
- Coordinate baptism/new member receptions
  - Provide food for receptions
  - Set-up  Clean-up following
- Member Enrichment *Committee*

### Shepherding (assist pastor with visitations, etc.)

- Visit Homebound Members

### Membership Needs

- Coordinate Membership Needs (Phone Matcher)
- Phone Tree Coordinator
- Call members in the Phone Tree (Zone Leader)
- Provide rides
- Assist Homebound Members
- Provide food/meals to members in need

### Quilt Ministry (no sewing skills required)

- Help with quilting projects for outside agencies

### Fellowship

- After-church Coffee Hour (prepare and cleanup)
- Social Events (luncheons, dinners, breakfasts)
  - Planning  Set-up
  - Cook  Clean-up
- Fellowship *Committee*

### OUR CHURCH HOME

#### Personnel

- Staff Support *Committee*

#### Financial

- Financial Secretary
- Controller
- Counters
- Audit *Committee*
- Stewardship *Committee*
- Finance *Committee*
- Endowment *Committee*

### Building/Grounds

- Altar Guild
- Library
- Shop for Kitchen Supplies
- Recycling
- Mowing
- Playground Maintenance
- Outdoor Worship Area
- Gardens/Landscape
- Minor Repairs/Upkeep
- Building and Grounds *Committee*

### Office

- Newsletter
- Information Tech; updating software/ equipment
- Publicity, brochures, welcoming displays
- Council (Vice President two year term – 2<sup>nd</sup> year President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Council Member at Large) Elections in April or May

### SMALL GROUPS

- Squackers (Scrapbooker, Quilter, Knitter, Crafter)
- Via de Christo Bible Study Group
- Other, Specify \_\_\_\_\_