Atonement Lutheran Church

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"We bring the hope we share in Christ to all"

May 1, 2012

Dear Christian Friend,

Atonement Lutheran Church has experienced growth as a family of God's people. As we replant our ministry to the Sierra Heights subdivision we pray for Gods continued blessing on our life together, and on ministry and service.

I'm really excited as I consider the possibilities provided by our **Catch the Vision - Share the Hope** capital appeal. This appeal will enable Atonement to experience God's blessing, and to provide a vital financial bridge as we break ground on our new facility. Before Commitment Weekend, May 19 - 20, you will receive a brochure describing our goals and inviting your prayerful consideration of your gift to this appeal. This program will strengthen our ministry which is rooted in the work, fellowship and fun we share as a faith community.

I am committed to giving pastoral leadership to the campaign to raise the necessary funds. This is a *time of opportunity and challenge!*

I will support this effort as an act of thanksgiving to God. Replanting our church home will be very significant for Atonement's ministry and our partnership with St. John's Ministries in serving this community. Our world calls for the church to be at its best.

We make a witness with our pledge. I want you to know that Pastor Maryann and I plan to make a pledge of at least $34.00 each Sunday to our **Catch the Vision - Share the Hope** campaign which we plan to increase over the three years as our financial situation allows. This will be in addition to our current regular pledge of $180.00 per week for the ongoing ministries of our congregation. We will also increase our regular pledge over the next three years as we have done in the past.

Whatever you pledge, be it large or small, it will be important! Those who believe in and who give themselves to a great cause are always willing to go "the second mile." Please join me as a "prayer partner" for this bold adventure in faith.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark Morgenstern

P. S. Please see the reverse side for some creative ways of giving.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Creative Ways You Can Give to Atonement Lutheran Church

Atonement Lutheran Church is in the middle of an exciting program entitled **Catch the Vision - Share the Hope.** Through this program we will raise funds to help re-root our Christian ministry in the Sierra Heights neighborhood. How our ministry thrives in 2012 and beyond depends on your response and God's blessing.

Many members are asking, "How can I give more for this important work?" The simple answer is that most Atonement members will give to **Catch the Vision - Share the Hope** out of regular income. Many will also give out of accumulated assets. Those who give from both will make much larger gifts – heartwarming gifts - that will allow us to reach and even surpass our goal of $650,000.

Some possibilities you might consider are:

1. Gifts of Life Insurance
   You may have a paid-up or partially paid-up policy that is no longer needed to protect your family. Giving this policy to the church may provide you with significant tax advantages.
2. Gifts of Stocks and Bonds
   Stocks and bonds, purchased or inherited, can be given. If the stock is now worth more than when acquired, you can avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value, and, if you itemize deductions, you can deduct the value of the gift up to 30% of your adjusted gross income with a five-year carry-over for any excess.. It is vital that you give the stocks or bonds to the church, rather than selling them first and giving the proceeds to the church. If the stock is now worth less than when acquired, you should sell the stock and give the proceeds to the church. U. S. Savings Bonds cannot be given during the lifetime of the owner.
3. Gifts from Savings or IRAs
   Many people will consider this moment in the congregation's life to be of such importance that they will make a gift from savings at this time. Those who are over 70 ½ might want to consider making a gift of all or part of the Required Minimum Distribution from their IRAs.
4. Gifts of Real Estate
   Real estate, including mineral rights, can be given to the church. Consider a "split sale" deeding an undivided percentage interest to the church prior to the sale, thus avoiding capital gains taxes on that portion. You may also receive a charitable deduction for up to 30% of adjusted gross income with a five-year carry-over for any excess.
5. Gifts of Personal Property
   Antiques, paintings, jewelry, livestock, automobiles are just a few examples. Various tax benefits apply.

Persons considering giving either real estate or personal property should consult with the congregation to verify that the congregation desires the gift. Congregations can receive helpful advice from the ELCA Foundation on this matter. It is very important that you consult with your attorney or financial advisor before making gifts from accumulated assets.