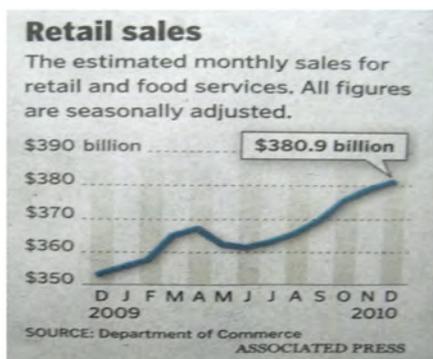


DISTRICT FINANCES & THE ECONOMY

Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

ECONOMIC OBSERVATIONS



A panel of business leaders meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 12, 2010, indicated, "The darkest days of the recession are over and 2011 should bring improvement." Senior economist of PNC Bank, Robert Dye, stated, "We're seeing increasing signs of recovery and repair of the economy." Other financial observations, however, indicated that small business owners still need help and that the labor force is always among the last segments of the economy to recover. A Federal Reserve survey released January 12, 2011, indicated all parts of the country are showing improvements. Factories produced more, shoppers spent more and companies hired more. Energy production and freight transport volume were stable. Some negatives from the survey indicated that millions of foreclosures are depressing housing markets and that workers lack

bargaining power to win bigger paychecks because of high unemployment at 9.4%. The stock market has been steadily climbing with the Dow Jones Industrials reporting 11,837.93 on January 19, 2011.

Financial improvements are also seen in SELC District congregational budget goal commitments for 2011. A net increase of \$5,268 from 27 congregations was reported as of January 16.

PERSONAL CHRISTIAN GIVING

Whatever the economic climate - good or bad - the three Biblical principles of giving still apply . . .

Proportionate (percentage of income) - **Regular** (every Sunday) - **First-fruit** (giving to God first).

If a Christian happens to be earning less, God still expects a percentage of the reduced income. If personal income should increase, God certainly would be pleased if a Christian's giving increased proportionately. Love for God in thanksgiving for His unconditional love in Christ Jesus is, of course, the motive for generous, cheerful giving.

2011 Goal Performance

A +1% goal increase was suggested for 2011. As of Jan. 15, 2011, 27 out of 52 congregations reported goals. 10 accepted goals above the suggested +1% ; 9 increased +1% ; 7 remained the same as last year; one decreased. A net increase of \$5,268 was indicated. It is hoped that those still to report will be as generous. Because of the economic climate, only \$547,124 was suggested for 2011 (\$26,364 less than suggested goals for 2010). A rationale of 97.5% rate of performance for goals and remittances suggests projected congregational receipts for 2011 an estimated \$520,000.

2011 Total Anticipated Receipts

Congregational Remittances	\$520,000
Non-budget Receipts	22,200
Investment Income	<u>20,000</u>
Total Projected Receipts	\$562,200



2011 District Budget

Synodical Missions/Ministries	\$206,000
Seminary Support	22,000
Lutheran Haven	63,000
District Missions	108,000
SELC Ablaze Projects	55,200
District Programs	61,200
Ministry of Service	212,200
Misc. Expenses	<u>6,000</u>
Total District Budget	\$733,600
Projected Receipts	<u>562,200</u>
Anticipated Planned Deficit	\$171,400

SELC District Assets

The projected deficit will be met from district assets of **\$856,881.34** (Dec. 31, 2010).

LCMS Synodical Budget

2010-11 \$87,601,646	Projection	\$88,927,979
2009-10 <u>\$81,185,878</u>	Budget	<u>87,601,646</u>
Increase \$ 6,415,768	Surplus	\$ 1,326,333