

EVERYDAY SAINTS

Stewardship Emphasis



Dear Friends at Good Soil,

Two years ago as the world was shutting down, there were serious concerns about what effect that would have on the church. However, through the faith and flexibility of the people of Good Soil (and a lot of help from the Holy Spirit too!) it's amazing to think of how far we've come since The Great Return:

Since May of 2021, we've had over 65 guests worship in person at Good Soil; we've welcomed 15 new members and had 3 baptisms; we continue to make improvements with our livestream system (eliminating the buffering issue and adding hearing assistance devices); we have people stepping into new leadership roles, including council; we've returned to in-person faith formation and Sunday School opportunities for all ages; we're partnering with local churches for our confirmation program; we're growing in faith and growing our relationships by sharing stories during worship with one another; we're progressing through the Dandelion Project transformational ministry process and will be discerning our current congregational purpose, guiding principles, and internal/external priorities during the month of November; and so much more!

Many of us feared a scarcity world would take over, but that is not what happened. God has been *abundantly* present. God is up to something here and it is exciting to be part of. We as the people of Good Soil, just like all people of faith, are everyday saints who help contribute to making Christ's love known and felt every day, with one another and throughout the world.

Thank you for the ways in which you have stepped up and continue to step up to worship, to care for one another, to serve alongside each other, and to look for fresh opportunities to share the Gospel when our community and world so clearly needs it. You have also demonstrated significant, faith-filled generosity to make certain that God's ministry here continues to blossom and thrive—thank you.

As everyday saints, God is calling us to great new adventures as a faith community, and your generosity will help us accomplish them. As we enter into our stewardship emphasis this year, let's encourage each other and lift up all the ways we see and experience generosity and abundance in everyday ways through everyday people.

P.S. Thank you Good Soil member Adam Pate for sharing your gifts and designing our "Everyday Saints" logo!

In Christ's love and hope,
Pastor Marissa

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

RECOGNIZING “OUR NEED TO GIVE GENEROUSLY” AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

It is a fundamental spiritual and psychological principle that life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded or it turns in upon itself and is lost:

“Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:25)

We each have a deep inherent need to give. To give is to live!

Unfortunately, instead of focusing on “our own need to give,” all too often we solely focus on “the need of the church to receive.”

The church *does* seek our support, but we must remember it is God’s Church, and it will prosper and flourish in God’s own good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all, however, is that God invites us to be a part of it! We are invited to experience the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending God’s mission through God’s church, as partners and co-creators with God.

Additionally, we exercise our faith when we give. By giving, we recognize that all we have belongs to God, and we trust that God will continue abundantly providing for us.

Just like a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled “The Need of the Church.” We need to begin concentrating on the side headed “My Need to Give,” for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth. Indeed, **giving is a spiritual practice of discipleship.**

*Generosity Materials, Fall 2022
Good Soil Lutheran Ministries*