

EVERYDAY SAINTS

Stewardship Emphasis



As everyday saints, all of us are on a generosity journey, and that means each of us is also being called to grow in generosity in different ways depending on our circumstances. As you plan for your giving to the church next year, consider some of these ideas for growing in generosity:

An idea for someone whose income has gone down in the last year:

Everyone can grow in generosity, even if that means the overall dollars given decreases. Perhaps, if before your income decreased you were giving away 2% of your income, now with income being less, can you find a way to grow the percentage of giving to 3% or 4%. There are people in our congregation who will need to decrease the total dollars given because of loss of work or other reasons.

Other ideas:

1. Systematic giving leads to generosity: For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving or just add an amount each week or month. **Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of a year.**
2. An extra gift or two during the year: A story was shared from a congregation that participated in this program last year about someone who said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April". **Well, what if we decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?**
3. Grow by a percentage each year: For some, the idea of a tithe (10%) is unachievable in a single year, but something people would like to reach someday. **By growing giving by a percentage each year, it is achievable over the long-term.** If you currently give away 2% of income, perhaps you can reach 3% next year and 4% the year after. This takes discipline, but over the long-term it can be an effective strategy for some.

You may also have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a faith community together, as we each grow in our generosity, it will have a tremendous overall impact. Thank you for your support!

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A POSTURE OF FAITH THAT ASSUMES SUFFICIENCY NOT SCARCITY

Many fear they will not have enough to live on. This is called, “The Scarcity Assumption.” It is human and natural, but it is not Christian.

Our faith teaches us that **God will provide sufficiently for all our needs** if we but trust in God’s promises. And this is true even when we give away the largest portion or amount that we have ever given!

So we must have faith that a good and gracious God will continue to provide for us in the future as God has in the past. And as God has promised to do!

We are called to trust God like Abraham and Sarah and so many others throughout the pages of the Bible. These examples were written for our instruction and for our assurance. **We are called to give in faith with the assumption of sufficiency, not scarcity.** God will always provide for us because God cares for us.

Building a Culture of Generosity Materials
Good Soil Lutheran Ministries