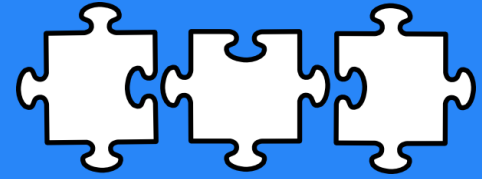


BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



Generosity continues to grow in the United States. Generosity grew even in the pandemic. Another study found that the median protestant (person in the middle if lined up smallest percentage to largest) only gave 0.62% of their income to the church.

For most people the reason for this has less to do with their wealth or income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. The average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75. This amounts to over \$1,000 if one is purchased each day of the year.

Regular, systematic giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, most of us can find \$2.75 per day. As you think and pray about your generosity this year. Consider how systematic giving may help you become more generous.

“For years, I didn’t think my giving was very important to the life of the church. After all, we were just starting out, had a lot of expenses, and didn’t really have much money. Then, we started by giving \$5 per week. It felt like a lot to us. I don’t think we could have written a check for \$250, but we could do that \$5 per week. We have grown this amount every year and it is through the discipline of regular gifts that the amount doesn’t overwhelm us.”

Susan Brown

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR BUDGETING AND SPENDING

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, “Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.” (*Matthew 6:33*)

Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and The Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.



Esperanza Lutheran Church
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