

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

175th Anniversary + Faithful Journey

Invitation to Financial Commitment



Paul Tournier expresses the following thought in *The Meaning of Gifts*. "There comes a day when a person understands that all is of grace, that the whole world is a gift of God, a completely generous gift since no one has forced him into it. We see each flower, each drop of water, each minute of our life as a gift of God." They sum up the reason we give our time, our talents, and our possessions. We give in response to what we have been given--the world around us, as well as the specific gifts we have individually received from God.

We are inviting all members of Trinity to make a financial commitment for 2010 as a proactive decision to give, in response to what we have been given. Making a decision to give a specific percentage of your income to the church is good financial stewardship. In 1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul writes, "Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned..."

How much should we give? That is a decision we need to make for ourselves. We are encouraged to follow the Biblical guideline of 10% (a tithe), but the absolute number isn't as important as the thoughtful decision to give proportionately, regularly, and gratefully. Our commitment in giving is the external evidence of our internal priorities. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:21, "For your heart will always be where your riches are".

Pragmatically, making a financial commitment helps your Congregational Council to develop a dynamic program budget each year. Imagine trying to manage your own household without knowing what your income will be. The chart below shows how weekly contributions correspond to a percentage of earnings. See where your current contributions fit, and then ask yourself if you are satisfied with the level of giving in proportion to your income. Challenge yourself to move up a percentage point or two toward a tithe.

Weekly Giving Chart

Income	Percent of Annual Income										
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	Tithe	15%
5000	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14
10000	2	4	6	8	10	11	13	15	17	19	29
20000	4	8	12	15	19	23	27	31	35	39	58
30000	6	12	17	23	29	35	40	46	52	58	86
40000	8	15	23	31	39	46	54	62	69	77	116
50000	10	19	29	38	48	58	67	77	86	96	144
60000	12	23	35	46	58	69	81	92	104	116	173
70000	14	27	41	54	68	81	95	108	122	135	203
80000	14	31	46	62	77	92	108	123	139	154	231
90000	18	35	53	70	88	105	123	140	158	175	263
100000	19	38	58	77	96	115	134	154	173	192	288

We invite you to embrace the concept of *good stewardship*. We invite you to prayerfully consider your own reality and complete and return the Financial Commitment form contained in your Faithful Journey kit.