



Messiah Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America www.messiahnh.org
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Dear Messiah Community,

As we enter this annual time of considering our stewardship here are a few verses to ponder:

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Psalm 24:1-2, NRSV

and

¹The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it—you have founded them.

Psalm 89:11, NRSV

All that we have in our lives comes from God as a gracious gift. God invites us to be caretakers of those gifts (time, talent and treasure) and to participate in God's work in the world with those things we have received.

As your council we are inviting you to be a part of this year's stewardship emphasis. Our goal for this year is to have 100% response to this time of discerning about stewardship. You are, of course, free to respond in whatever ways and amounts seem faithful and prudent to you. Our hope and our prayer is that we will hear back from every one of you as part of this effort.

This year we are focusing on three aspects of stewardship, **ASKing**, **THANKing** and **TELLing**. We will have temple talks in church on November 17, 24 and December 1. If you miss them or would like to hear them again you are able to go to our streamed services at www.youtube.com/@messiahnh.

We have enclosed in this mailing an "Intent to Give" card which provides and opportunity for you to indicate your anticipated stewardship in the coming year. This is very helpful in constructing our ministry budget and for making decisions as a council. If things change during the year it is very helpful (and never a problem) for you to make adjustments as needed/desired (up or down) to the anticipated stewardship for the remainder of the year. We are hoping to receive everyone's initial "Intent to Give" amounts **by Sunday, December 8th**. We will have a time of fellowship and **report out the totals that we have received on December 15th**. If you wish to mail your cards to the church please do so attention Karla Seckinger (our financial secretary). If you would prefer to e-mail in your intentions please send those directly to Karla Seckinger at messiahfinancialsech@gmail.com.

In case it is helpful for you we have included a step-stair graphic showing the number of giving units giving and in what range each is giving per month. In addition we have included this year the total percentage of the giving that each step represents. This may be helpful as we consider the health and sustainability of our giving patterns as well as an opportunity to consider moving up the staircase if your circumstance allows.

There will be places to indicate your intent to give of your time and talents to the various ministries of Messiah as well. Thank you for the important place you hold here at Messiah as a member of our community. We thank God for you and look forward to this next year of working together on behalf of God's love for the world.

In Service to our Messiah, Jesus, Your Messiah Church Council

Michelle Alvarez *John Quatro* *Ed Stenmett* *Levi Drake*
Carla T. Newham *John C.*

Faith, hope, love... and the greatest of these is love - First Corinthians 13:13