

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



As we prepare to return our Statements of Intent for our generosity for this year in worship today, several of our Council members have shared their excitement about our ministry moving forward:

- The thing that touched my heart by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is the kindness of the congregation. What this church has taught me is that just being a spectator is not what makes a church. Participation is needed for a church to really be a part of the community.

Derek S.

- It never ceases to amaze me how our congregation responds to requests for church missions. Whether it is funding or volunteer work, we always seem to come through for God's creation.

Dave R.

Keeping our ministry strong will enable us to dream about ministry flourishing even more into the future. Take time this week to reflect on the ways in which connection to our ministry has impacted you and those you love in the past year and start dreaming about what God may have in store for our community!



God's Work. Our Hands. Day School and health kits are packed to go to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Many hands make the work light and joyful!



BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

DECIDE TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

Little has ever been accomplished without sacrifice. This is true in our homes, our work, our church, our country. Sacrifice is a necessary component of living.

So it is with the Christian life and faith. Christ became human and experienced our pain and mortality, dying by human violence and rising by God's powerful grace to show us how far God's love will go for us. Bonhoeffer rightly said there is no cheap grace.

Much of church giving is only token giving, averaging about two percent of income. No wonder there is so little joy or satisfaction in it. It requires no sacrifice! We have given only what we could easily afford, what we would not really miss.

Experience has shown that giving is most meaningful and joyful when it is sacrificial. Each will have to determine what amount or percentage is sacrificial for our circumstances. But experience again suggests that for most people sacrificial giving begins at five percent of income with proportions under five percent falling into the token giving category.

Church interest is often low, studies have shown, because investment is low. There is no sacrifice. It doesn't really cost anything. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." (**Luke 12:34**) Where is your treasure? That is where you will find your heart.