

November 4, 2020

Dear Members of St. Matthew's Family,

Sunday December 6 will serve as *Commitment Sunday* for this year's stewardship emphasis "***Time Talents and Treasures.***" Throughout the month of October, the sermons focused on various readings from Philippians to teach us that Stewardship is not just about money. We heard that we can humbly use our gifts, that we are citizens of Heaven and that we can contently use our time and talents to help others. In Bible class we have also been learning about the importance and value of talents. We have all been given differing gifts in differing amounts, but all are valuable and are gifted to us so that we can glorify our Father in Heaven!

In the book of Malachi our Heavenly Father actually invites us to "put him to the test" in our giving (Malachi 3:10)! God promises to bless our generous gifts. In the New Testament we are asked to give "on the first day" of the week in "keeping with our income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). In other words, we don't want to "give God our leftovers." Our Lord deserves our first and our best. The Bible teaches that God loves a *cheerful* giver. May he bless you with great joy as you plan your gifts for him.

Please find the enclosed Guideline worksheet and Commitment form.

- **The bottom half is to be placed in the enclosed envelope labeled Full Name _____.**
- **Both the top half and the labeled envelope are to be placed in the collection basket during the services on December 6 and 7.**
- **If at this point you are not comfortable with in-person worship, we encourage you to return both forms using the self-addressed, stamped envelope included in this mailing.**
- **This year we are also trying a new way to help people report their commitment using an online form through Google survey. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/6kS7Geiahs6683Sx7>**

We ask that these forms be completed by December 15.

We are very grateful for your past support of the work we do together. Completing these forms helps us in budgeting for the next year.

This has been a very strange and challenging year but God has continued to bless St. Matthew's with many passionate and energetic individuals, among our called workers and lay members. Together we can continue to move forward into 2021, sharing the Gospel, compelled by our love for Christ.

Thank you for all you do in supporting God's kingdom through the faithful Stewardship of your time, talents and treasures. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

St. Matthew's Board of Stewardship

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of Christ, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.