

Dear St. Andrew Supporter,

As we are launching our 2025 St. Andrew Stewardship Campaign, we first want to say thank you for all the ways you support the work of Christ at St. Andrew. As members of the Stewardship Workgroup, we offer a special thanks for your financial support of our Church. We also want to share some background information on, as well as our plans for, the 2025 Stewardship Campaign.

Why does St. Andrew conduct a Stewardship Campaign, and how does it work?

We hold our Stewardship Campaign each year in the fall. This year, the campaign runs from September 21 through October 19. The campaign is a time for each of us to reflect on the importance of sharing our gifts of prayer, presence, service, witness, and our financial gifts. The campaign is about celebrating all gifts and all givers – at St. Andrew every gift matters. This is also the time that our Church staff and ministry teams make plans for the year to come.

For this year's campaign, Pastor Brian will preach a sermon series centered on our campaign themes of community, generosity, and the future. We will hear from members of our congregation on what the St. Andrew community means to them. Mission areas and staff will share their thoughts on what your gifts make possible – and what would be possible if we had more. We will come together as a Church in a Day of Service to our community. We will end the campaign together as a St. Andrew family, sharing a pitch-in meal at the Church. (More information will be shared in *Staying Connected* and on the St. Andrew website.)

We hope this Stewardship Campaign is a time for us all to reflect on where we are as a St. Andrew community of faith and what God is calling our Church to be.

During the campaign each of us is given the opportunity to communicate an estimate of our giving for the coming year. Only one person at St. Andrew will see your estimate; your individual giving information is not even shared with Pastor Brian. Please know your giving estimate is not some kind of contractual commitment set in stone. We know life happens and things can change - you are not bound to your estimate. Rather, these estimates simply give the Church a directional sense for planning purposes. Of course, there are opportunities throughout the year to give beyond your estimate. Or, if you prefer not to make an estimate during the campaign, you are always welcome to give throughout the year as you are able.

St. Andrew's budget is made possible by gifts of all sizes. You might think that only large gifts matter, but the range of giving at St. Andrew is very, very broad. A large number of smaller gifts support a large portion of our budget! As you consider your gift this year, please know you can

give online, set up recurring payments, automated debit payments or gifts from your retirement plans.

Your gifts make possible our many opportunities to engage in worship, sharing Christ's message – a message so desperately needed today. Your gifts also support many, many mission activities including Family Promise, Lafayette Urban Ministry (and Hunger Walk), Partners in Hope, Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, Red Bird Mission, Tippecanoe County United Food Pantry Tithing Garden, UMCOR, Bashor Home, and Habitat for Humanity, among others.

Again, your generous support helps make all these ministries possible. It is not an overstatement to say the work of St. Andrew – Christ's work – is more important than ever. We have done much as a Church for our community in the past, but we are called to do more...

Our Stewardship Campaign theme this year is 'Together We Thrive – Building a Generous Community'. We are focusing on the idea that every gift builds the future. One of the scripture lessons Pastor Brian will be using during his stewardship sermon series is the story of James and John asking 'to sit at Jesus' right and left in His glory'. Jesus responded to their request by telling James and John "...whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:35-45, NIV).

As followers of Christ, we believe that a servant's attitude and actions are central to building a strong, thriving faith community. And we believe in the power of that community to live out Christ's charge to serve. Our Stewardship Campaign is about coming together as a faith community to serve; it is about the power of gifts of time, talent, and treasure to make possible the work Christ has called us to do; it is about St. Andrew's future.

As you consider your 2026 gift, we do hope you will reflect on what we are as a Church today and what we can be if the resources are available. So, if you have given before, thank you! If you are considering giving for the first time, thank you for considering it! We will be extraordinarily grateful for whatever gift you choose to make.

Yours in Christ,

St. Andrew Stewardship Workgroup

Jay Akridge, Larry Biehl, Pastor Brian Cook, Jane Kirkpatrick, Stephanie Knight, Mark Lindemood

p/s Did you know that financial reports from St. Andrew are available to you at any time? In fact, periodically, you will see an overview of our monthly revenue and expenses in our newsletter. St. Andrew has a history of transparency in financial reporting so if you have any questions at all about Church finances, feel free to ask!