



"I give to the Church because I feel blessed. I give to First Lutheran because I believe that the Church is a wise steward of my giving and seeks out the best ways to use the money entrusted to them, and takes good care the things that God has given all of us."

SYLVIA HARDING

How will you "Rekindle the Gift?"

With a renovated, safe and fully functional Peel House, imagine the ministry opportunities. How could our mission and ministry look in the future? Envision the ways our ministry and congregation will grow in our neighborhood and beyond. Hope for what will happen when we go beyond our fears and take risks to share God's love with each other and strangers in exciting new ways. After all, what is to fear when we approach the future with a bold faith in the abundance of God's love?

2 Timothy 1:5-7 *I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lo'is and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you. 6 Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7 for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.*

Step 3: Place God First in Your Budgeting and Spending

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33)

Many experience difficulties, giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and the Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.



Stewardship is not about keeping the lights on at First Lutheran Church, or making sure there is coffee to perk on Sunday morning. Stewardship is a spiritual exercise that draws us into a closer relationship with God, in thanksgiving for the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our gifts celebrate the love of God and fulfill our need to give, through prayer and Bible study.

As you consider your giving to both our annual ministry, and a special above and beyond commitment to the Rekindle the Gift campaign, consider these questions:

- ◆ **How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?**
- ◆ **How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?**

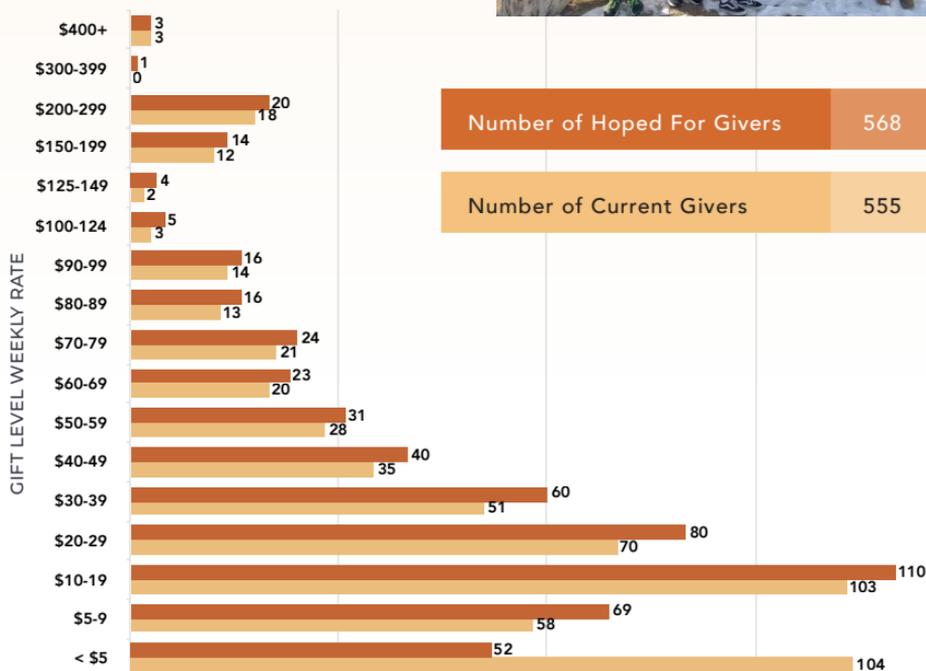
- ◆ **Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?**
- ◆ **How much more could I give if I really wanted to?**

During this campaign we are talking about our need to give, the role of prayer in our giving, the concept of first fruits, the reality of abundance as opposed to scarcity, generosity in sharing the gifts God has given to us, and our joyfulness in giving.

We will rekindle the future that God is calling us to at First Lutheran and imagine the ministry and outreach possible with every family involved – basking in the glow of a living, daring faith in God's grace!



Weekly Giving Chart



Number of Hoped For Givers 568

Number of Current Givers 555