

## Dear Parents, Grandparents, & Caregivers,

During October we celebrate the anniversary of the Church (Reformation) and those that God gives to us to serve. Leading up to Thanksgiving we thank God for his free gifts and explore ways we can be good stewards of what God gives to us by giving back. We are freely given what we need: grace and forgiveness, God's Word, and sacrament so we can freely share. The church is the body of Christ brought together by faith with unique gifts. We will spend a few weeks talking about the church, what and who God gives us, and how we give back.

During this festival season we will be doing some special things in our Sunday School classrooms at 9:45AM we will be doing a special offering project. We've learned how the Israelites gave their very best toward building God's Tabernacle in the desert. We hope you will contribute generously to our special project.

The 2025 holiday season is fast approaching, and we are looking to help school families, from three elementary schools, one high school, as well as our Hispanic ministry families in addition to the pantries we support. There are two ways that you can support our food ministry during the months of November and December.

**FIRST:** Cash donations to Feed Your Neighbor in enclosed envelope to purchase and distribute gift cards to families so that they can buy their food based on what their family likes to eat to celebrate the holidays. Our volunteers will use your donation to purchase the gift cards for those we are supporting during this year. Last year we helped over 200 families with gift cards and this year the needs could be larger, more families seem to be in need.

**SECOND:** We are asking for food items to be brought in to fill the basket in the narthex each week. These items will be delivered to the food pantries that we support. The items for November and December will be items that you would serve for the holiday meals. Remember, not everyone has the same type of family meals for the holidays. For example, our Hispanic friends may enjoy rice and beans, black-eyed peas and many other items. Any items that you bring will help a family. Remember, NO perishable items, but items that they can use to help provide for their holiday meals for their families.

Thank you again for your continued support

Your Food Ministry Committee & Sunday School Staff



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