

October 9, 2025

Dear partners in ministry,

What a great time to be a part of God's work in and through this congregation! For the second consecutive year, our fall season began with a Back-to-School BBQ for families in our community that had our church rocking and rolling with the love of Jesus. It was a similar joyous scene two weeks later as we hosted the Pirate Bash event for the awesome folks served by Eagle Wings DisAbility Ministries. Thinking of the positive, purpose-driven energy of these church-wide outreach events, it brings to mind other highlights of God's work in our midst this year: "Sticky Faith" family gatherings, Confirmation students & sponsors sharing faith together, Holy Week & Easter services supported by our wonderful Music Ministry, Joyful Life outings, the faithful fellowship known as Women's Bible Study, thoughtful & reverent Healthy Boundaries training, sending kids to camp with Everett Gospel Mission, "Road Trip" Summer Bible Camp, and many more. Our life together is full of instances of missional energy, undeniably present among joyful servants, like the folks who travel to downtown Seattle to serve a monthly meal to the homeless through Operation Nightwatch.

God provides for all this and more through our stewardship investment of the financial resources we've been entrusted with. This fall we're digging deep in the parables of Jesus, and we're about to discover that in several of them he provokes his followers to invest fully in God's kingdom. Accordingly, this year's stewardship campaign theme is **"THE (JESUS) WAY TO INVEST."** Here's a snapshot of Jesus' investment advice in his parables:

"Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Jesus, in Luke 12:15b)

In his parables, Jesus inspires us to invest in God's kingdom. *The Rich Fool* reminds us that there's more to invest in than our own comfort. *The Persistent Widow* reminds us of bold prayers for God's provision. *The Good Samaritan* reminds us to open our hearts & our wallets to help the wounded. *The Sheep & the Goats* reminds us of what will matter in the end.



By God's grace and through your generosity, our financial position is strong. We express our appreciation to all who have given financially to the Lord through the ministry of this congregation. Thank you! Through your offerings the Lord has provided for this congregation, and your faithful giving is an ever-present expression of God's care.

This year we continue to emphasize that our giving to God through the church is an expression of our walk with God. Giving money to the church is an act of devoted faith that draws us closer in union with Christ. In the process, the church's mission and ministry are supported through a

percentage of our incomes (the concept of the “tithe,” meaning “tenth”). Our stewardship campaign continues to encourage people toward proportionate and planned giving in response to the question, **“What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”**

On Sundays during November, we’ll focus on stewardship with a theme-inspired series of worship services and sermons. Pledge cards will be mailed to households prior to the first Sunday so that we all have them as we listen to a special presentation on joyful & meaningful giving in worship on **Invitation Sunday**, November 2. Our annual **Pledge Sunday** will be November 9, where we will offer our pledge cards confidentially to the Lord at the foot of the cross as an act of worshipful devotion. After worship we’ll host our traditional **Pie & Praise Lunch/Dessert** at the church (details to follow). November 16 will feature a **Service of Wholeness** with opportunities for personalized healing prayer, recalling the compassion of The Good Samaritan. The final Sunday of the church year, November 23, will focus on a common text for **Christ the King Sunday**, The Parable of the Sheep & The Goats. The new church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent on November 30.

As we bring our offering to the Lord in worship, may we be inspired by Jesus’ parables and their portrayals of faithful & generous investment in God’s kingdom!

Sincerely in Christ,



Elder Vic Chaloupka



Pastor Kurt Helmcke

The (Jesus) Way to Invest: Faithful Stewardship Provoked by Jesus’ Parables

Date	Activity	Description
October 26	Mission Brunch	Meet Juska & Jona Lazarre of God’s Vision for Haiti!
October 27	Pledge Cards Mailed	
November 2	Invitation Sunday	Giving Invitation & Testimony Sermon – “ <i>The Wise Way to Invest</i> ” (Luke 12:13-21)
November 9	Pledge Sunday	Offering of Pledge Cards in Worshipful Devotion Sermon – “ <i>The Persistent Way to Invest</i> ” (Luke 18:1-14) Following Worship: PIE & PRAISE! (11:30am – 12:30pm)
November 16	Wholeness Sunday	Healing Prayer & Continued Commitment Sermon – “ <i>The Merciful Way to Invest</i> ” (Luke 10:25-37)
November 23	Christ the King Sunday	Sermon – “ <i>The Successful Way to Invest</i> ” (Matt. 25:31-46)

A Stewardship Prayer: *Loving God, we thank you for the rich abundance in our lives. Open our eyes to see that, in being so blessed, we can, in turn, abundantly bless others. Open our hearts to feel the powerful generosity of your Spirit and let go of our fear and judgment. Open our ears to hear the needs of this church and community. Open our minds that, whenever called, we offer the world our measureless love, our generous time, our unique talents and treasure. Quicken our hands to your service, breathe your Spirit into us and touch us with the life of Christ. Amen.*