

October 27, 2025

Dear friends,

The grace and peace of the Lord be with you! Because of God's presence and provision in our lives, there is much to be hopeful about, even for those of us still reeling from our beloved Mariners' exit from the playoffs just short of going to their first World Series ever. As we enter into the month of November with its classic focus on gratitude, we can be thankful for how this team made October baseball come alive in Seattle for the first time in a long time. Along with Thanksgiving, November also brings our annual stewardship series and the opportunity to bring our pledges of giving to the Lord in worship on Sunday, November 9.



This fall we've been exploring Jesus' parables, and we're about to discover that through these powerful and provocative stories he inspires us to invest in God's kingdom wisely and generously. For those wondering what investment advice Jesus might give, it turns out that the topic of investing time, talent, and treasure appears frequently in his parables. This year's stewardship theme, "*THE (JESUS) WAY TO INVEST*," will explore Jesus' investment advice in the following parables:

- **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 truly matter in the end.

Our November worship services will feature opportunities for each of us to express our richness toward God in generous giving. Our stewardship series begins this Sunday with a video testimony encouraging us toward a life of generosity responding to God's abundant provision. We will be invited to give to the Lord through this congregation in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

Our annual Pledge Sunday is November 9th. On that day, each household will bring their completed Pledge Card (enclosed) to the church, offering them confidentially to the Lord as an act of devotion. Following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our annual **Pie & Praise Luncheon**, a midday feast of pies savory and sweet celebrating God's gracious provision.

As we bring our offering to the Lord in worship, may we experience the joy of Christlike generosity!

Sincerely in Christ,



Elder Vic Chaloupka



Pastor Kurt Helmcke

RESOURCES FOR YOUR DISCERNMENT

The heart of pledge stewardship is:

- **Thanksgiving** – We give thanks to God for all that we have been given and respond by sharing what we have with others.
- **Joy** – Through stewardship and sharing, we discover what our time is worth. It brings us closer to God, and we feel more grounded and experience deep joy.
- **Commitment** – Does our level of commitment match our core beliefs? How we spend our time, talent, and treasure is a powerful indication of our spiritual life.
- **Good News** – God has given us creative power and entrusted us to manage this potential to show the world the image and likeness of God.

Your stewardship, how you give of your time, talent, and treasure, is a personal decision. As you consider your stewardship of God’s creation:

- *Pray* – Ask God to give you a clear vision of the prudent management of the resources you control.
- *Listen* – Communication with God in prayer goes both ways if we let it.
- *Decide* – Determine what portion of your resources should be returned to God for the benefit of others, in Christ’s name.
- *Remember* – Your commitment is based on your situation now. If your situation changes, it is appropriate that your pledge changes also.
- *Offer* – Present your pledge of money to God as you bring it forward in worship and offer your pledge of time and talent through participating all year long.

Stairsteps of Giving

For those of us who might be able to take a step up in our giving, prayerfully consider the following:

- Based on your 2025 giving, find your corresponding step on the graphic (right).
- Notice one step above. What would it take to increase your offering by that one step?
- Alternatively, what would it take to inch closer to the upper range of the step you’re on?

The chart may also be helpful to those who have seen a decrease in income. The biblical concept of tithing (a “tenth”), as percentage giving, amounts to equal sacrifice among God’s people, accommodating increases and decreases in income year-by-year.

