The Abundance of God's Hand

Receiving with gratitude.

Sharing with joy and love.



Home at Trinity: The Gift of Time, Skill, and Presence

A Story from Louie Fostvedt

Louie Fostvedt's understanding of generosity reaches back to a day from his youth that he still remembers clearly. He and a friend had been talking during church and were told to stop. Afterward, they took their ice skates to the Sioux River east of Canton. As Louie rode his bike, he fell through the ice. Friends pulled him out, but the current was swift, and the water was too deep to retrieve the skates they had brought along.

In the aftermath of that frightening moment, Louie remembers two thoughts taking hold: that generosity meant giving to others, and that God had plans for him. He came to understand that those plans included being generous with both his time and his resources.

That conviction has shaped the way Louie has served throughout his life. He learned generosity first from his parents, who "always shared with others." For Louie, that sharing has often meant offering the gift he knows best: working in the construction and building industry. He has made three trips to Guatemala and one to the Yucatán, and he has also served at the Pine Ridge and Rose Bud reservation in South Dakota and at Outlaw Ranch. In each setting, he put his building skills to work where they could help others or strengthen a place for ministry.

Some of those experiences were shared with people from Trinity. Louie worked alongside Trinity's men and women on projects, joining practical skills with a shared desire to serve. In Guatemala, he met Kathy Price, a leader connected with an organization whose name is recorded in his notes as "Mission of Love." Louie later assisted with arranging projects and helping raise funds. He also worked as a finish carpenter for Annar Pettersen, directing the money he earned to the mission's work. Among his fondest memories is receiving communion in Guatemala with tortillas and grape juice as the elements—an ordinary meal made holy in a place far from home.

Trinity itself became home gradually. When Louie and his wife, Nila, were newly married, they attended different churches. Nila had been raised Baptist, so they visited a Baptist

church where Nila had been raised and baptized at the age of 13. Louie did not feel comfortable there. When they visited Trinity, though, he did feel comfortable. Over time, he came to know people in the congregation and found them welcoming. “I just grew into feeling like this was home,” he says.

Today, Louie values the life that continues to unfold at Trinity. He appreciates the ongoing activities of the church, especially those for children. “The activities for the kids are important because they are the future of the church,” he says. He also enjoys the men’s Bible study and Monday trivia. Over the years, the ministry of Trinity has meant a great deal to him.

When asked why he supports Trinity financially, Louie’s answer is simple: “It was the natural thing to do.” That simplicity says something important. Giving is not separate from his faith, his welcome at Trinity, or the ministries he values. It is part of belonging. It is a way of participating in the church that has become his home and helping sustain its life for those who are here now and for the children who will shape its future.

Louie’s story is also a reminder that generosity takes many forms. It can be a welcome offered to a newcomer, a skill shared on a work project, a conversation at Bible study or trivia, a prayer, a financial gift, or faithful presence over many years. Trinity is grateful for the people whose time, care, leadership, service, and financial support help create a church where such belonging can grow and where ministry can continue to reach beyond its walls.