

Stewardship Season

2 Corinthians 9:7 – Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

This fall at Christ the King, we will celebrate our first Stewardship Season, by asking each of you to fill out a pledge card for 2026. For some of you this might be a familiar tradition done every fall, and for others, this might be brand new. If it is new for you, let me explain what this is, and why we do it.

Stewardship involves the faithful giving of our time, talents, and finances throughout the year. During a stewardship season, we humbly ask our people to consider their financial gifts to the church, and to pray over the amount that they will be able to give in 2026. Then on Sunday, November 2, we will ask you to turn in a pledge card with next years pledge. These pledges are not legally binding contracts, nor will we seek to enforce them. We all know that financial situations can, and do, change quickly. What seems like a reasonable, faithful amount now, may look very different in six months. So why pledge?

First, we pledge because 2 Corinthians 9:7 says that we should decide in our heart how much to give. In other words, it ought to be considered and prayed about. There should be some intentionality as we think about the money God has so richly blessed us with, and how we can use it for his glory. Whether we are able to give a lot or a little is not the question, the question instead is whether we are growing in our ability to give faithfully and cheerfully. This is what God loves!

Second, one thing I have learned, as a pastor, is that sometimes the best way to get someone to take the next step of growth and obedience is simply to ask them to! So, let me ask, have you considered increasing your giving for next year? I don't ask that because the church is strapped for cash, or because I've got my eye on a fancy new set of rims for the minivan. Nor do I want you to give under compulsion! But I do believe that giving is an act of worship, and that it's good for us to examine our habits to see if there are areas of needed growth.

Finally, we pledge because it is very helpful for the church! We are working on putting together a budget for 2026, and thinking, dreaming, and praying about what the Lord may be leading us to pursue in the next year. Having a reasonable estimate of our people's intentions is very helpful in making a budget and thinking through our priorities. We hope to share more about these priorities with you soon.

Talking about money in church can be uncomfortable. But it is also important, because God loves a cheerful giver! And because we want to be faithful with the resources that God has entrusted to us. And because, at Christ the King, we want to be praying, and working, and giving, towards the goal of seeing the Kingdom come in Lexington, as it is in Heaven!

Grace and Peace,

Jeff Tell