

Dear Friends in Christ:

Let me begin by thanking our regular givers of time, talent, and treasure at Lutheran Church of Elmont.

October is Stewardship Month at Lutheran Church of Elmont. The formula is simple. God gives you all that you have and are. If you acknowledge this fact, then some questions inevitably come up:

1. How can I express my gratitude to God?
2. How can I honor God?
3. Can I be generous the way God has been generous?
4. How can I assist those whom God has put me in a position to help?
5. How can I carry out or continue Christ's mission with what God has given me?

One way—certainly not the only way— to answer these questions is to carry out Christ's mission by supporting the work of the Church. The Church exists to point to Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life (John 14). It also exists to connect sinners with the God who would forgive them and give them new life (John 20).

We give to the work of the church to thank, honor, and show our commitment to God. Some of us vow to show this commitment by pledging financial support through the year. Others give of their first fruits and not of their leftovers. Some still need to find their wallets and step up.

A pastor once announced to his congregation, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is: I am happy to report that we have plenty of money to meet our financial obligations. The bad news is: that money is still in your pockets and in your bank accounts."

Lutheran Church of Elmont gets no money from the government. Lutheran Church of Elmont has no regular rental income. We are withdrawing money from our Thrivent investment account faster than the interest income is building up. If our members are committed to the continued ministry of Lutheran Church of Elmont, they will make it happen through faithful and consistent giving. It is ultimately not a matter of dollars; it is a matter of the heart.

Please consider prayerfully what you are able to give for the continued ministry of Lutheran Church of Elmont in the coming year.

Blessings, JSM