

# Where Ministry Happens



STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2021

## Building on the Foundation

Over the last several years, separately from annual giving, we invested heavily through a special capital appeal to strengthen our foundation by expanding the worship space at our Austin Campus, renovating the outdoor chapel and establishing the memorial garden at our Far Hills Campus. As our three-year appeal concludes December 31, 2020, we will combine the accounts and begin paying both our principal and interest and our operating expenses through one comprehensive operating budget. Our facilities are a great blessing to us as a ministry, and we eagerly await the day we can be back in them to gather at full capacity for worship, fellowship, learning, program events and service.

"I have been a member of Epiphany for over 35 years. I have seen it grow from a fairly small church to what it is now. When I first joined, I didn't know many people. I first started getting to know people and really feeling a part of the church when our family got involved in the summer musicals and the children's Christmas shows. Epiphany provides a solid foundation for developing strong relationships with fellow Christians, and in doing so, living out our faith." – Bob Ransbottom

"Epiphany gave me a firm foundation for my faith. Moving to Centerville my junior year of high school, the youth group activities and opportunities for service inspired me to become a social worker. After having my own children, I wanted them to have a church "home" to help them build a foundation for their faith as well." – Julie Thomas

You are invited to continue the generosity that you shared through our capital appeal as we move the remaining principal and interest in with the operating budget to handle this obligation. If you have not contributed to the 2017 capital appeal, imagine the significant power a little extra gift will make for future generations who use our spaces.

The goal of our **Where Ministry Happens** 2021 Stewardship Appeal is to increase gifts and offerings by \$3,000 per week (\$150,000) of which \$1,443 per week (\$75,000) is for Building on the Foundation. As members continue their appeal giving and others increase giving, this will be a very achievable goal. Pray for a generous response overall, and please pray about increasing your gift for the coming year. With your help, we'll not only say that we care about our new facilities, we'll keep investing in them as a place **Where Ministry Happens**.



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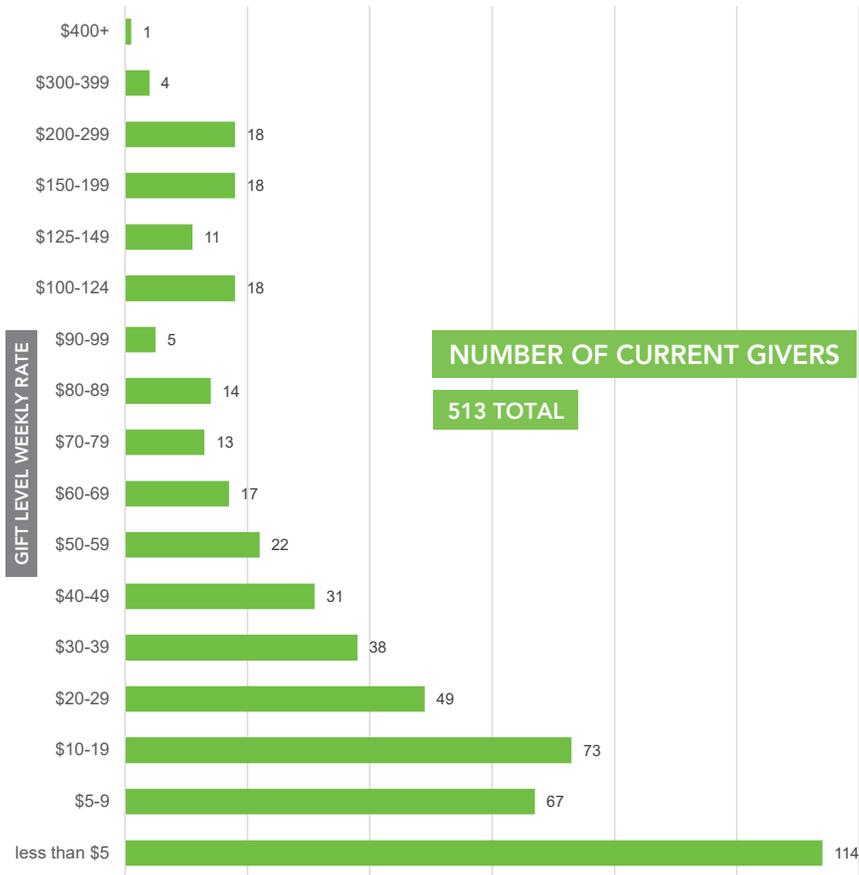


# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN

The following chart shows how we are currently funding our ministries and missions. Look through the chart to see where you are currently. As you do this, consider these questions:

- † How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- † How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?



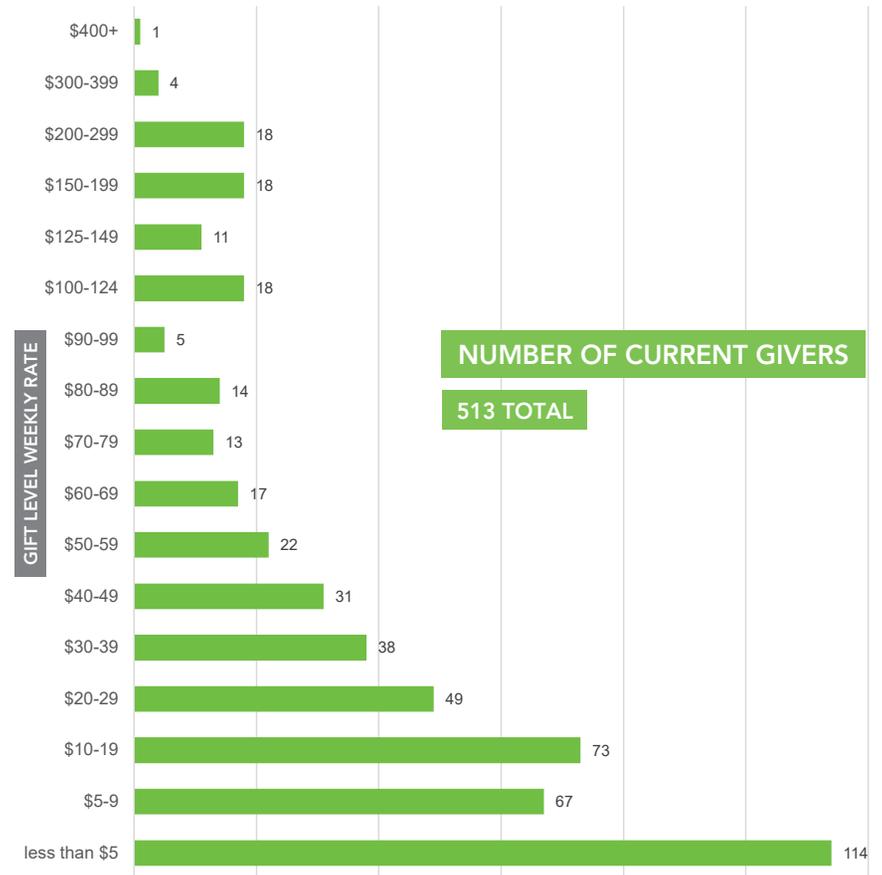
And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life...I will be their God and they will be my children." **(Revelation 21:5-7)**

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STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2021

## Addressing Deferred Maintenance

When our buildings are open, we are a vibrant church home, full of activity, with hundreds of people coming and going every day. And while closed, most facility operations and maintenance needs still exist.

Our church home is where people gather to hear the Gospel and receive Holy Communion, to connect in relationship and study, and to serve others in need. To support these activities, we need to ensure that our facilities are in good working order.

Over the years, many routine maintenance projects were put off, or deferred, primarily because we didn't have the funds available. To ensure this maintenance is carried out in a timely manner, part of our **Where Ministry Happens** 2021 Stewardship Appeal focuses on "Addressing Deferred Maintenance."

While we develop long-term plans to fund the care and maintenance of our facilities, we have pressing needs to address some previously deferred maintenance in the near-term. Projects include but are not limited to the necessary replacement of computers, flooring, and a fire system panel. Catching up on deferred maintenance reduces the risk of disruptions to worship and ministry, and by building this cost into our operations, we can reduce or possibly eliminate the need for special appeals for these items.

"The goal is to pass along the peace of mind that the facilities are in good repair and that everything is working the way that it should, without a second

thought to the people who are using our spaces for worship, weddings, funerals, music, Vacation Bible School, Preschool, Child Care, Bible studies, support group meeting, small groups, Pantry and Operation Prom Dress outreach, and a whole host of other activities." – Don Greiman

In the coming year increased giving is needed so that we can prioritize moving forward on some of the deferred projects to support Epiphany's mission and ministries. The **Where Ministry Happens** 2021 Stewardship Appeal has a goal of increasing offerings by \$3,000 per week (\$150,000) with \$962 per week (\$50,000) for deferred maintenance. As members continue their appeal giving and others increase giving, this will be a very achievable goal. Some of these gifts will be used to address deferred maintenance.

Pray for a generous response to this appeal. Pray about your own response. Consider increasing your giving as the Lord leads you. Be ready to make your commitment known on **Where Ministry Happens** Sunday, November 15. In our giving, we will be saying thank you to the Lord and caring for our facilities, **Where Ministry Happens**.



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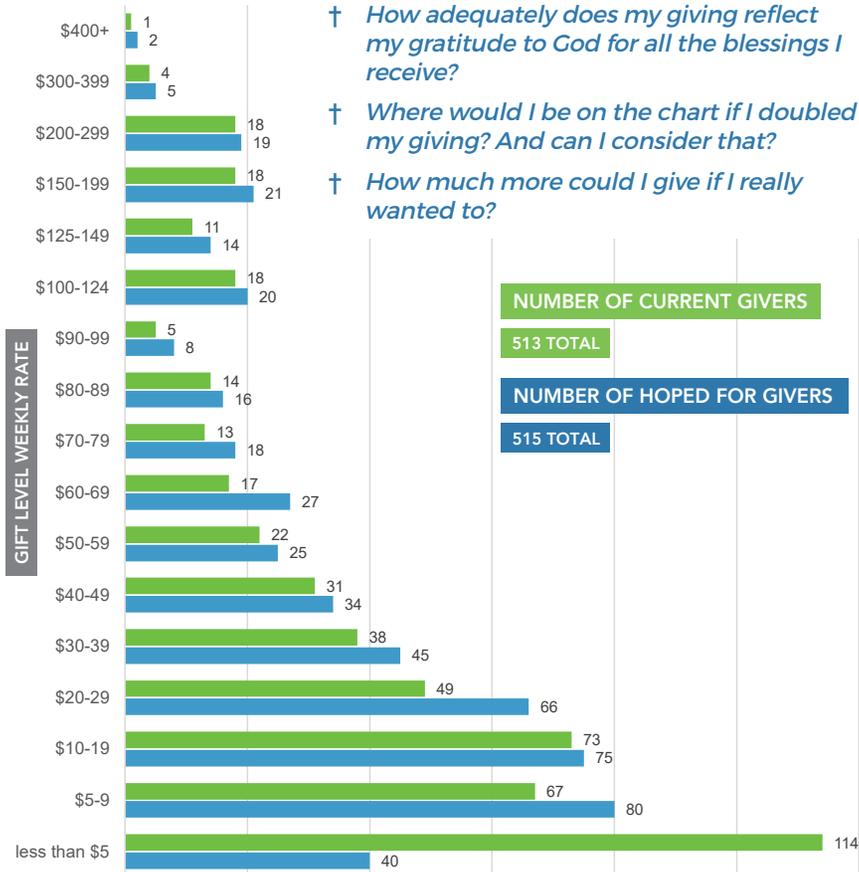


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RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR

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- † *How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?*
- † *Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider that?*
- † *How much more could I give if I really wanted to?*



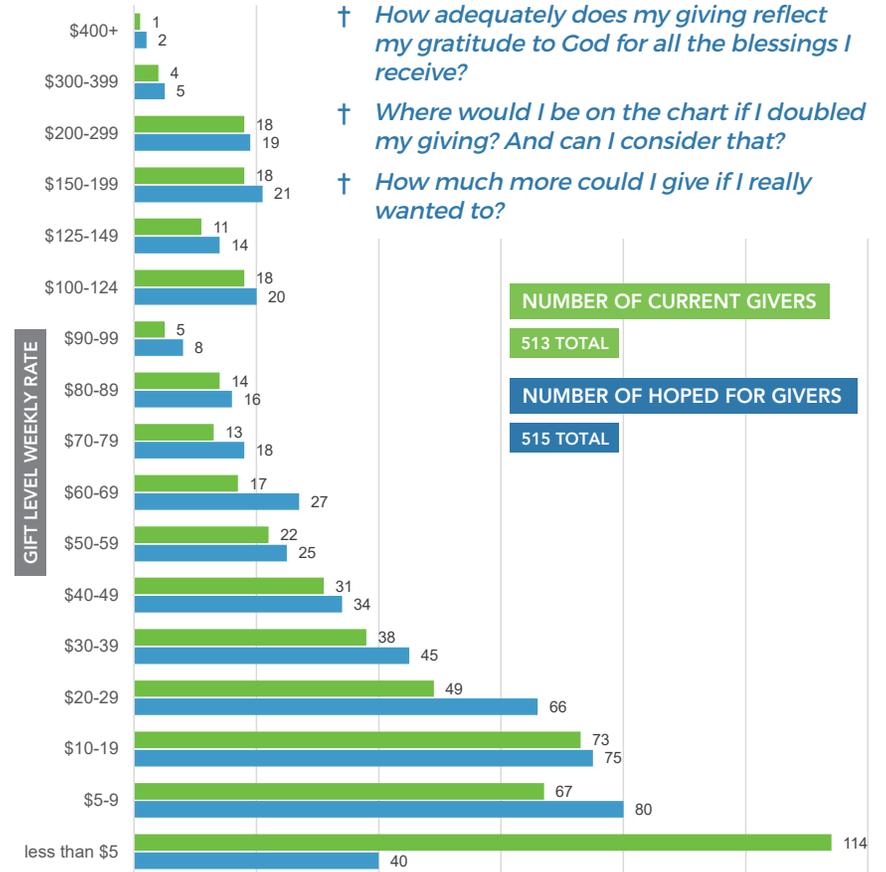
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STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2021

## Strategy and Growth Alignment

The pandemic has shown us how critically many need our strong and vibrant ministry. It has also helped us realize that we are not just bound by a physical place. Research has shown that building up our virtual campus not only extends our reach to more people but also increases in-person worship attendance and ministry involvement. To ensure we are intentional in our development, we need help with building a comprehensive strategic plan, aligning brand messaging and marketing plans, visitor hospitality and engagement. Finally, we plan for a proportionate increase in our gift to the Southern Ohio Synod, and ultimately the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which extends the reach and impact that our collective generosity makes possible.

*"The children and youth of our church are the future of our church. As is the community. We gain new members by reaching out to the community and showing them the love God has. It is my hope Epiphany continues to reach out to the community with various ministries such as Operation Prom Dress, the Pregnancy and Child Loss Seminar, and many other ways that we reach beyond the walls of our church. Our children understand this. They don't have the discouragement or fearful thought of being ridiculed about their religion. They just go out and love Christ." – Candy Norman*

Through this initiative, we look to increase visibility and attention toward our virtual campus and Epiphany's online presence, as well as evaluate

our interaction and follow-up with first-time visitors to invite them in and involve them in life at Epiphany. In turn, our programming and community outreach flourish through expanded reach and engagement.

Investing in strategy and growth alignment is included in the **Where Ministry Happens** 2021 Stewardship Appeal. Our goal is to increase offerings by \$3,000 per week (\$150,000), of which \$481 per week (\$25,000) will be for strategic planning and to increase online and in-person engagement. **Where Ministry Happens.** As members continue their appeal giving and others increase giving, this will be a very achievable goal.

Be sure to read the letter that will come to you soon. Study the Stewardship Brochure that will be enclosed. Pray for a generous response to this appeal. Consider prayerfully how you will respond to the invitation to increase your offering. The Lord will continue to bless our offerings as they are used to love Jesus by serving others everywhere.



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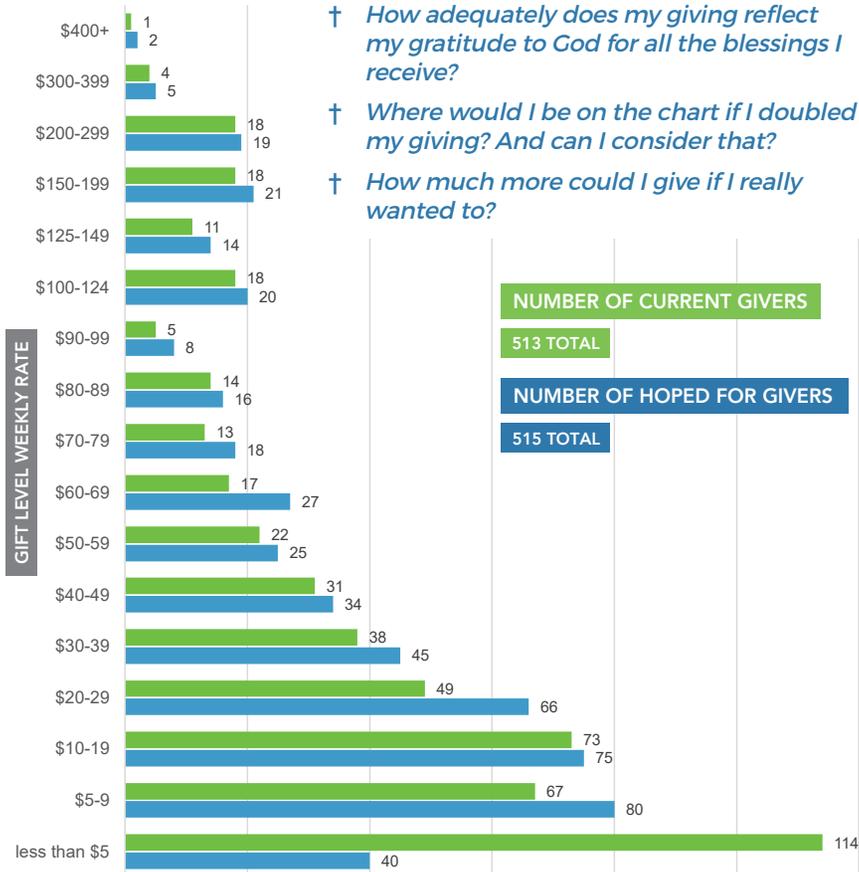


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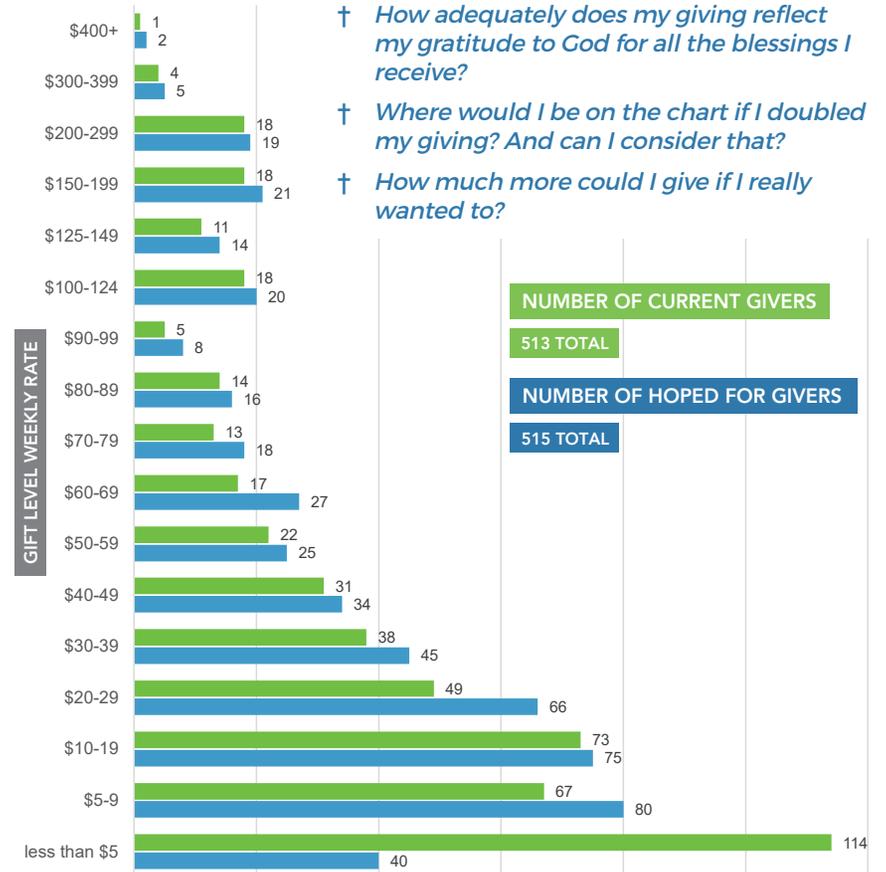
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