

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

IN THE NEW NORMAL

Stewardship Appeal 2022



The Psalmist writes in Psalm 85:2 “Your love has always been our lives’ foundation, your fidelity has been the roof over our world.” (from THE MESSAGE)

If you think the word “stewardship” translates into “money,” we think you will be pleasantly surprised by this year’s appeal! Our bulletin inserts for the next three weeks will highlight the three goals of this year’s campaign. The first two goals are not about money – they are about your time and talents. From grateful hearts comes the offering of our very selves. As we pray in worship, “*Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.*” (ELW p. 107)

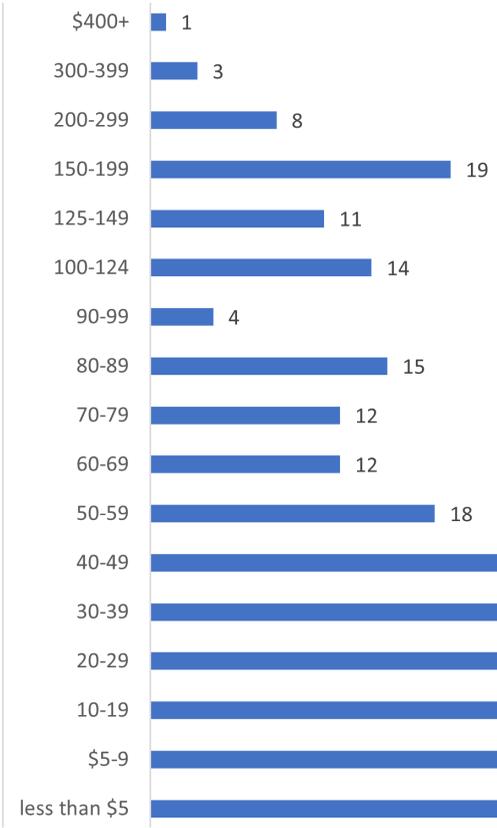
This week's emphasis: 1. We invite you to GROW IN SPIRIT. Spiritual growth has both corporate and individual elements. At the time of last year’s appeal, both Epiphany campuses were closed to in-person worship. Many people reported how much they missed being together and they now have a new appreciation for gathering in-person for Word and Sacrament. This year we hope to remain safely open for one of the most important elements of our faith lives – worship. Renew your commitment to worship faithfully.

Many other aspects of spiritual growth and nurture can take place at home. Set aside a special place and time for Bible reading, reflection, and prayer. Use the God Pause daily devotion provided online by Epiphany. Both online and in-person group Bible studies are available. Commit to grow spiritually in the coming year. As you make this commitment, know that Epiphany is dedicated to providing resources you need for spiritual growth.

Next week's emphasis: 2. We invite you to GROW IN SERVICE. The second week we will emphasize re-engagement. COVID prevented many service and volunteer opportunities. Several ministry group leaders told us that the greatest need was for volunteers. Remember, we love Jesus by serving others!

The third week's emphasis: 3. We invite you to GROW IN GENEROSITY. The third week we will talk about money. Our financial giving is an indicator of spiritual growth and a necessary foundation for ministry.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 17. Our Stewardship Team will share our thanks after each service at both campuses.



RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN

This chart shows how we are currently funding our operating budget, which enables our worship, service and fellowship to thrive. 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?

CURRENT GIVING
383 Total Households

On a recent Sunday morning at our Austin Campus, first-time visitors announced, “We’re new here!” They were new to the service and the facility, but it turns out that they had been worshipping online with us for almost a year. They had even noticed their next door neighbor on the live stream of worship! Their faith was being nurtured and fed by methods we could not have imagined a generation ago. We can measure worship attendance at our services – even the online worshipers. We can, of course, measure our offerings by the weekly count. There’s probably complete agreement that we would like to see attendance and offerings grow, but that’s a challenge in these pandemic times.

An even tougher challenge is measuring personal spiritual growth! You can’t use a yardstick and make marks on the doorpost like you do for children and grandchildren as they grow in height. Journaling might serve that purpose, recording time spent in prayer, meditation, and quiet time with God. Perhaps the best method for measuring growth is adding something. Do you allow enough time for prayer? Is Bible reading and study on your calendar, whether it be online or in person? Are you worshipping regularly – online or in person? These are possible ways to “measure” spiritual growth with a very desirable outcome of being drawn closer to God.

Christian stewardship is not just about money but about all that we have been given – ourselves, our time, and our possessions.