

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 are reading this insert in worship, then you have heard at least one Ministry Minute, a brief personal story highlighting what the offerings of ourselves, our time, and our possessions accomplish here at Epiphany and in the great big mission field that surrounds us.

Last week, you were invited to GROW IN SPIRIT. Nurturing your personal relationship with God is the first commitment you can make in this year's appeal.

This week's emphasis: We invite you to GROW IN SERVICE. Think for a moment how many hands, feet, and voices are a part of Sunday worship: many of them volunteers. Someone prepares the bulletin. The musicians plan and practice. Holy Communion is prepared; bread is baked. Worship assistants, sound board and live stream operators, and ushers are lined up. Offerings are later counted by volunteers. With a choir, there can be 30-40 people involved in leading our worship. And that's just the start of our week! At the end of worship, we are blessed and sent into ministry in the workplace and the neighborhood.

With more than 50 Epiphany ministries, the need for volunteers is great. COVID-19 continues to restrict some of our efforts, and we do want our Epiphany members to stay healthy and safe. Do you see those weeds in our flower beds? Can you help with the mowing team? There are both outdoor and indoor possibilities – think Epiphany's ongoing food and clothing pantry and annual events such as Adopt-A-Family and Operation Prom Dress. There are even at-home possibilities like the card ministry. There are likely ministries we haven't even thought of yet!

Your talents and gifts have one source. They were allotted by the Holy Spirit. And they have one purpose – to build up the body of Christ! (See 1 Corinthians 12)

"The volunteers were all so thoughtful, kind, and helpful. They offered their advice and truly made us feel like beautiful daughters of Christ." – Operation Prom Dress participant

"Ray and I had provided the evening meal for the guests at the Schneider House of Hope and handed out quilts to the children. After helping to clean up after dinner, a little guy, maybe around 5 or 6 (years old), ran to us with his quilt tied around his neck to make him look like a superhero. He had a big smile on his face and thanked us for bringing dinner. That was a God moment." – Epiphany member Rose Wasky

Next week's emphasis: We invite you to GROW IN ABUNDANCE. Yes, we will talk about money. It's not a topic that Jesus ever shied away from, and if we are serious about doing ministry, we can't either.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 17, just two weeks away. Before that date you should receive a *Faithful Stewards in the New Normal* letter, brochure, and giving statement of intent card. That day our Stewardship Team will share its thanks after each service at both campuses.

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR

The chart below 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?
- » Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?
- » How much more could I give if I really want to?

