

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)

What do you get when you mix a large amount of generosity with a sizeable quantity of ministry goals in a COVID environment? You get a picture of Epiphany in 2020-21. A new chapter in the legacy of generosity in our congregation was written last year!

Thanks be to God for your generosity! We were able to fund all our online worship costs, make an additional debt payment, and make gains on deferred maintenance. While not terribly exciting, all these things are important to sustain our worship and enable us to fulfill our mission of loving Jesus by serving others. Epiphany supporters who made a giving statement of intent raised their commitment by an average of 15% last year. That's remarkable in a year when in-person worship was severely disrupted!

This week's emphasis: We invite you to GROW IN ABUNDANCE.

Stewardship campaign history clearly demonstrates that those who make a commitment always give more faithfully. Setting up automatic contributions takes the worry out of remembering to honor that commitment and helps the church plan the flow of finances that support worship and ministries. Your statement of intent is not a binding document but a promise and personal goal to be a good steward of all that God entrusted to you.

In the first week of this Fall's appeal, we invited you to GROW IN SPIRIT. You will get a chance to make that commitment on your statement of intent card, and over the course of the year, we will provide resources to help with that commitment.

Last week we invited you to GROW IN SERVICE. You get a similar opportunity to make a commitment on your statement of intent, and we will work to facilitate the necessary connections that will make your service possible.

This week, we invite you to GROW IN ABUNDANCE. Jesus taught about money in many of his parables (Talents in Jesus' time were actually coins!). While money itself is neither good nor bad, how it is valued in the heart and how it is put to use is very much a spiritual matter! Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." What does your giving indicate about where your heart is?

In a recent letter from ALOA, **A**dult **L**utherans **O**rganized for **A**ction, the executive director referenced a Wall Street Journal article in which psychologist Alison Gopnik reported on a number of valid scientific studies indicating that as we age into older adulthood, we tend to be more generous. In other words, **BE HAPPY...GIVE!** We believe this to be true for all ages, as demonstrated by our youngest Epiphany family members offering ministry gifts during Vacation Bible School.



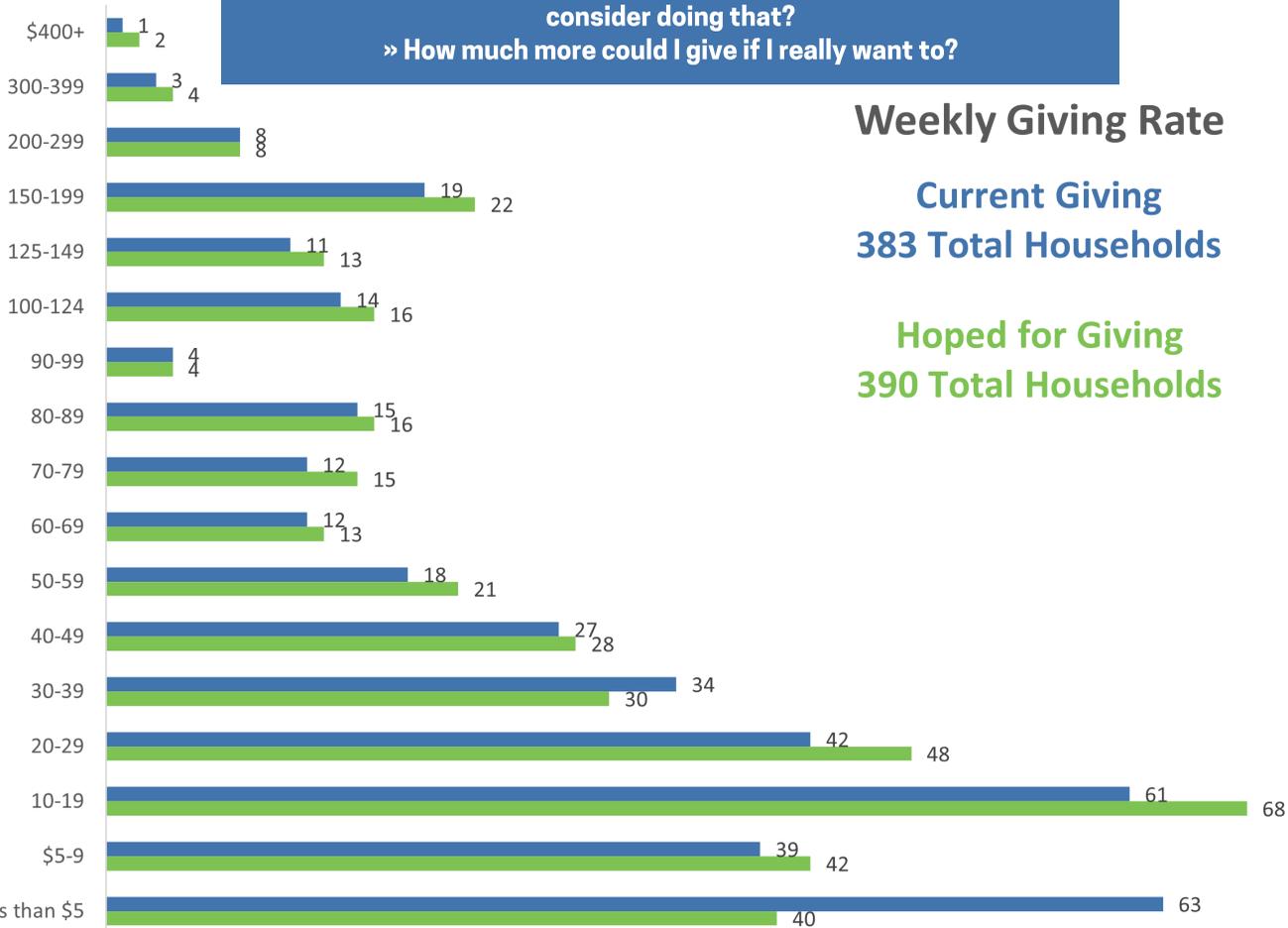
Stewardship Commitment Sunday is OCTOBER 17 at ALL worship services!

The Giving Statement of Intent is ONLINE NOW at www.epiphanydayton.org/2022-Giving-Intent-Form.

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?



Weekly Giving Rate

**Current Giving
383 Total Households**

**Hoped for Giving
390 Total Households**