

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



We hope to never live through another pandemic. It seems though, in the hardship, we often see what God is up to. We recognize just how vital it means to be in relationship with God and community. Here's a few examples of those who share in their passion for generosity:

- One of my favorite bible verses comes from Romans 12:6. "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." I love God and I love our church. Our kind and generous God has given us gifts of time and talents. I am honored to use the gifts he gave me to serve him. When I walk through the church doors on any given day I realize how wonderful it is to have this place of community that is filled with faith, peace, fellowship and joy. The community we call Peace Lutheran Church. To God be the glory.

Vicki Hillmer

- There is no doubt in my mind that God continuously blesses me. I strive to be generous in recognizing and honoring those blessings.

Matthew Simmont

- In September 2020 when Martin was diagnosed with gastric carcinoma, I thought our world had fallen apart. All our lives we had planned for our retirement. The medical bills were astronomical and I had no idea how this was going to affect us financially. We put it in God's hands, and I talked with Pastor Jake about our giving. Finally, here in 2022 we are back on track and are back to tithing. God pulled us through and faith sustained us in our times of need.

Martin & Carol Franz

- What a joy it has been to be part of the Peace Lutheran Church family this year. 2020 and 2021 were challenging for our congregation, yet the bonds we had as a community of believers in Christ and belief in His plan for us have borne much fruit in 2022! The energy in our church fellowship, inspiring spiritual worship services, and a focus on serving others is creating an even stronger sense of community among the Jesus followers in our church family! I'm excited about what lies ahead for Peace Lutheran. I am grateful for the blessings God has bestowed on us! 2 Corinthians 9:11 says "You will be enriched (blessed) in every way so that you can be *generous* on every occasion, and through us your *generosity* will result in thanksgiving to God." We are to be a blessing to others through generously pouring out the time, talents and treasures God has blessed us with, for the sake of His mission here on earth.

Don Hodde

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SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead we should as Christians seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.

Challenge: spend some time in prayer over the coming month asking God to share God's vision of generosity to you.

