

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



As we prepare to return our Statements of Intent for our generosity for this year in worship today, several of our brothers and sisters in Christ have shared their excitement about our ministry moving forward:

- What troubled us at the beginning of the pandemic, was that the collective wisdom was to stay home, but was more need than ever in the world. We felt called to find ways to safely reconnect and serve our community. We started volunteering at Meals and Wheels, The New Braunfels Food Bank, and Peace Lutheran Worship/Service Ministry. In the process, we learned just as much about ourselves as we do our neighbors.

Nate & Brandi Raschke

- "We give our time, our talents and our monetary gifts because we have been abundantly blessed. We both believe that God-given gifts should be shared to bless others."

Wil & Becky Voges

- In spite of all of the events of the past couple of years, we at Peace Lutheran have been generously blessed. I believe God is working through us to accomplish even greater things. I believe God has a ministry vision for Peace Lutheran. It is my (our) calling to engage in prayer to determine what that vision is and to be faithful, responsible, and generous stewards of our God-given time, talents, and resources to support that ministry vision.

Dave Heise

Keeping our ministry strong will enable us to dream about an ever-growing ministry into the future. Take time this week to reflect on the ways in which connection to our ministry has impacted you and those you know and love in the past year and start dreaming about what God may be up to here moving forward.

Thank you for the partnership we share as the church seeking first the kingdom of God and how we are called to generously live out our faith.

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DECIDE TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

Little has ever been accomplished without sacrifice. This is true in our homes, our work, our church, our country. Sacrifice is a necessary component of successful living.

And so it is with the Christian life and faith. Our salvation cost God the cross. Bonhoeffer rightly said there is no cheap grace.

Much of church giving is only token giving, averaging about two percent of income. No wonder there is so little joy or satisfaction in it! It requires no sacrifice! We have given only what we could easily afford, what we would not really miss.

Experience has shown that giving, to be meaningful and joyful, has to be sacrificial! Each will have to determine what amount or percentage is sacrificial for his or her circumstances. But experience again suggests that for most people sacrificial giving begins at five percent of income with proportions under five percent falling into the token giving category.

Church interest is often low, studies have shown, because investment is low. There is no sacrifice. It doesn't really cost anything. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." (***Luke 12:34***) Where is my treasure? That is where you will find your heart.

