

Dear Friends at Bethel Lutheran Church,

The past year and a half or so have been some of the most difficult times many of us have ever experienced. When we have this level of difficulty in the world, it is also a time when the message of grace and the importance of the church is most dearly needed. We believe the way in which Bethel has responded to the pandemic in the past several months is a tribute to the character and commitment of our leaders, in their desire to spread that grace.

In our conversations with Pastor Lynne, there are numbers of subjects, challenges and projects that our congregation would like to see as the church continues on its' mission. We also know that our church is active in the community and continues to have the desire to make an impact in the community and the world.

Your generosity this year is as important as ever, and will support the ongoing witnessing and serving of our communities. With the challenges of the past year there was no actual stewardship drive, so we all have work to do going forward.

First, we need to recognize that all that we have are gifts from God. We are simply stewards of those gifts. It is our responsibility to be *good* stewards of those gifts. Our financial giving in the church is not a financial transaction, but it is a “Spiritual Practice”. Everyone has something to give. Often times those that have less resources end up giving more as a result of their *Spiritual Practices*.

*Spiritual Practices* should be undertaken only after having conversation with God. Prayer is an integral part of Christian life, and we should *listen* for the voice of God in our prayer conversations. Many people tithe, others build their giving year by year increasing dollar amounts or using percentages. We encourage you to *listen* to what God has to say about your *Spiritual Practice* of giving.

During the month of October please *listen* to the message being delivered by Pastor Lynne and others each Sunday, to get an idea of the impact that you currently have through your *Spiritual Practice* of giving.

In His Service,

Bethel Trustees

