

creating a culture of **GENEROSITY**



FALL 2020

Dear Trinity Lutheran Friends:

Remember back in March when we thought that the coronavirus would impact our lives for a few weeks or maybe even a month? For most of us, we recognize that this has been one of the most, if not the most difficult years of our lives.

In this difficulty the world has seen the importance of the church and Christ's message of unbound love. This pandemic has also given us opportunities to share the Gospel in new ways, such as a Livestreaming Ministry where all of our worship services are now shared on the internet. We have shared the Gospel through feeding those in need, talking with people in crisis and being present with one another through Zoom meetings or phone calls.

I want to share a word of thanks for the ways in which you have stepped up. People have come forward so worship could continue. Others are going out of their way to care for one another. Still others are looking for new opportunities to share the Gospel when our community so clearly needs those words of promise and hope.

I believe God has shown us through this crisis our need to walk together, to continue to innovate and step up the ways in which we share God's love. What happens at Trinity has a positive impact on people's lives.

Your generosity this year is as important as it has ever been. Your faithful financial gifts not only keep our congregation healthy, but provides the means necessary to care for people in new ways, ways we never would have considered prior to COVID.

As we enter into our stewardship drive this year, I invite you to think about all the ways that we have seen generosity this year. There is no question - God is good and has blessed us abundantly.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark Narum

RECOGNIZE YOUR NEED TO GIVE

It is a fundamental spiritual and psychological principle that life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded or it turns in upon itself and you lose it. "Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (*Matthew 16:25*) We each have a deep inherent need to give. To give is to live!

But unfortunately, instead of focusing on our own need to give, all too often we center on the need of the church to receive. The church does seek our support but we must remember it is God's Church and it will prosper and flourish in God's own good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of--God's church and to experience the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending its mission.

Just as a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled "The Need of the Church". We need to begin concentrating on the side headed "My Need to Give" for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth.