

# creating a culture of **GENEROSITY**



FALL 2020

Today we begin gathering our Intent Card, a statement of our generosity for next year. These are hope filled times at Trinity. Several of our Council members shared their excitement about our ministry moving forward:

- Trinity is a church with such a strong sense of serving others, not only within the church but also serving others in the community. Our church is made up of caring and talented members who are equipped to serve in Jesus's name. The Lord will help guide Trinity towards its next service opportunity, and this makes me excited!  
Amy Peterson
- I feel Trinity is a solid foundation for all of us to use to get through these difficult times. Attending Trinity makes me feel better about the world we are living in and the fact that we are all getting through this together with God's help.  
Christ Berglund
- I see the future of Trinity becoming stronger together in faith. Let us all find ways to strengthen each other and make a difference in our church and our community. *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another."* Hebrews 10:24-25  
Cindi Offerman

Keeping our ministry strong enables 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. At the same time, you are encouraged to pray and dream about what God may be up to here.

## 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.