



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

October 2024

***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.***

Romans 15:13

By God's grace, **JOY** is part of our lives. Knowing who we are and **whose** we are, we are empowered to live lives filled with **JOY**. Our **JOY** is made complete when we abide in Jesus the Christ and live in obedience to him, responding to God's love by giving our time, talents, and money in ways that help others and extend God's kingdom as we seek to **"care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."**

JOY is a prominent theme in the scriptures. From the very beginning, God's plan for humankind has been to bring us **JOY** and peace. Throughout the Bible, we see stories of **JOY** in response to God's blessings and celebration of God's promises. The Hebrew people rejoice and sing songs of **JOY** when they are liberated from their Egyptian slavery and make their way toward the Promised Land. Jesus of Nazareth brings **JOY** to those who follow him. The Apostle Paul also speaks of **JOY** in his letters, urging followers of the risen Christ to be **JOYFUL** even in difficult circumstances. The Bible teaches us that **JOY** is a gift from God to be celebrated and shared with others.

All members and friends are asked to make a commitment to fund the ministries, mission, and outreach of our congregation. In addition to all the lives touched by our gifts, there is incredible **JOY** in being generous, in realizing and sharing our blessings, and in investing in something in which we believe.

*Everything that we have has been given to us
by our loving God
in an extravagant gesture of love and generosity.*

*Giving is a **JOYFUL** response to God's many blessings.*

*Every contribution makes a difference
to the expanding mission and ministry
of our growing congregation.*

Please prayerfully consider the following for 2025:

- ❖ **ASK YOURSELF:** How does your gift to Holy Trinity reflect how God has blessed you? How does it reflect what you receive from this congregation?
- ❖ **MAKE A GIFT** (weekly, monthly, annually) if you do not currently give.
- ❖ **MAKE A PLEDGE** to our growing mission and ministry as we expand our support of congregational programming; increase our partnership support of the wider church and local outreach ministry partnerships; support our staff; and, meet higher operating expenses.
- ❖ **INCREASE** giving by 1% of income or \$10 per week as a step toward reaching the biblical tithe of 10%.
- ❖ **MOVE BEYOND 10%** for those already tithing.
- ❖ **MAKE AN EXTRAORDINARY and/or LEGACY GIFT** to support current and future ministries.
- ❖ Please also consider our need for additional **ushers and altar guild members, choir members, home communion ministers, Christian education teachers, lectors, communion assistants, coffee hour servers, communications team members, greeters, lawn angels, and worship bulletin and newsletter folders.**

Joyful Living, Joyful Giving

Why should I pledge?

Pledging is about our relationship with God. A pledge acknowledges that everything we have comes from God. It allows us to share our many blessings while simultaneously furthering God's mission of love and compassion in the world. Pledging gives us an opportunity to put our faith in action and deepen our connection with God. It is an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace of faith.

Pledging gives the work of the church a priority in our lives. It is part of our covenant of faith, evidence that we put God first – not last – in our lives. Making a commitment in the form of a pledge helps us to be regular and systematic in our giving and lets our church family know that it can count on our financial support – barring any unusual circumstances, of course. Our commitment becomes intentional and not just a part of what is left over after our other commitments have been met.

How much should I give?

Christian stewardship is grounded in the understanding that our standard of **giving** should reflect our standard of **living**. Each of us is called to make a pledge that is both responsible and proportionate, based on our financial situation.

Historically, Christians have shown their gratitude to God by tithing, that is giving one-tenth (10%) of their gross income to the work of the church. Not all can give at that level, but each of us can begin with a percentage – say 5% or 2% – and move toward the tithe as we commit ourselves to proportional giving.

- All pledges are accepted with deep gratitude and recognition of the sacrifices each of us makes in daily life.
- If you have not pledged before, please give prayerful and serious thought to making a pledge this year.
- If you are among the many generous-hearted people at Holy Trinity who have pledged before, please consider the possibility of increasing your pledge as a way to further support the good work of our congregation and the wider church.

What if I am not sure of my time or financial situation for the coming year?

You are asked to make a pledge of the gift(s) that you feel you can give. If it turns out that you are able to give or do more during the year, you may give or do more than your pledge; or, if your circumstances change in the opposite direction, you may contact the Parish Administrator to adjust your pledge accordingly.

May I give stocks, securities, real estate, or other assets? May I pre-pay my pledged amount or make a lump-sum gift?

Yes, you may coordinate these arrangements with the church office.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

GIFTS FESTIVAL BREAKFAST at 9:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate our mission and ministry and review our 2025 proposed spending plan. One feature of the program will be the inspirational video *Celebrate What's Right with the World™* with former *National Geographic* photographer Dewitt Jones.

Please make reservations in the narthex, Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office.

REFORMATION SUNDAY FESTIVAL SERVICE at 10:30 a.m.

(one service only)

We celebrate our Lutheran heritage with stirring music and worship and consecrate our pledges of time, talent, and treasure for the coming year.