



Among all our many blessings, the opportunity to give is truly a gift from God. The giving of our Time, Talent, and Treasure are all opportunities presented to us for our contemplation at this time of year.

I would like to focus on the aspect of Treasure and make sure that we as a congregation have a clear understanding of this element.

You may ask, "How does the Church use my pledge?" The answer is threefold:

The first is to provide a place for people of faith to worship in a setting which conveys the significance of our beliefs, the historic liturgical traditions of our religion, and facilitates the member's desire to express one's thanksgiving, confession, and request for forgiveness from God. This requires a suitable building and an effective clergy supported by staff and volunteers who provide the music, teachings, and fellowship to maximize the expression of faith.

The second use is to facilitate our efforts spread the Word of our Lord throughout the community

The third use is to do for others less fortunate whose needs can be met through monetary assistance as well as volunteer giving of one's time and talents.

Our budget addresses all these areas in a manner planned to provide the best opportunities for our congregation to come together to worship, support fellowship, encourage growth of our membership, and aid those in need.

In 2021 we had expenses of \$650,000 or \$54,000 each month for our operations. This year we have adopted a bare bones budget of \$608,400 or \$50,700 per month. We have put off certain initiatives we would like to undertake once we know the results of our Stewardship campaign. Among these initiatives are to provide for a Sunday School and increased Christian Education for both youth and adults, add to the clergy staff to be certain that our clergy can expand on providing pastoral care and spiritual growth of the congregation, and devote more resources in our Outreach efforts including both funding and hands on participation. As most of you know, the pledges represent the biggest source of contributions (78%) and represent the most certain source of income as we plan for the year. Once we have a better idea on our available resources, we can look to these and other initiatives.

This is an exciting year for us as we are coming together again after the last two years of significant change and challenges brought about with the Covid uncertainties, changes in staff, and our inability to gather. So, as you are discerning your monetary pledge, please know that your gifts will be used in the most effective and impactful manner possible.

As you review the enclosed pledge cards for 2022, please take a moment to reflect on all our wonderful opportunities to enjoy God's gift of giving as we plan for 2022. We will be celebrating our Loyalty Sunday on February 27th and look forward to working together in sharing our gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Blessings,

Steve Connell, Treasurer