

Your Offering In Action **A message from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Teams**

This year's Stewardship program is called *Your Offering in Action*. We have a lot to be thankful for here at Emmanuel and we are truly blessed. We have a talented and dedicated Pastor and staff. We have a beautiful sanctuary in which to worship, a welcoming church building and a rejuvenated parsonage; all spaces that we continue to update and improve. We actively support our local, national and global neighbors through our work with the ELCA Synod, our Mission outreach efforts, and partnership with local community groups and other churches. Our ministry teams and small groups engage our parishioners in the life of the Church, nurturing our spiritual needs while providing fellowship to all. It is *Your Offering in Action* that supports all of the worship, mission and fellowship activities of Emmanuel.

Simply put, our goal is to raise pledge income by 7.5% or approximately \$18,000 for 2017 compared to 2016. Our request is that the members of Emmanuel make a pledge of financial support to Emmanuel in 2017, increase their giving, and, if possible, increase it by 7.5%.

Why is it important to make a pledge? Pledges and other offerings from our congregation make up the vast majority of income we expect to receive during the year, and our budget is based on that projected income. Our budget is the roadmap for what is possible each year in terms of staffing and compensation, programs and activities, and taking care of our buildings. Without your pledges, we don't know how much income we will take in, and we can't plan appropriately.

Your offering, pledged for 2017, is the primary source of income that is used to create the yearly budget. Except for a modest amount of rent, and other building usage fees for space we provide to non-profits and community groups, Emmanuel does not receive financial support from any other sources. We are completely dependent on pledges from the congregation. It is *Your Offering in Action* that maintains and grows our ministry here at Emmanuel. You may not pledge because you feel your stewardship is between you and God. While it is true that your stewardship is known to God, and the commitment of a financial pledge can seem daunting at times, the reality is that we all make financial pledges every day whether it be contracts for cable tv or internet service, gym membership, cell phone service, mortgages, car payments, etc. These financial transactions are all forms of pledging. If you have not pledged in the past, we hope you will pray about your stewardship practices and consider pledging this year. Therefore, we ask every member to make a formal pledge for 2017. Every pledge is important to Emmanuel and valued, regardless of amount. Likewise, every dollar given in support of Emmanuel is important, whether you are able to pledge or not. Consistent, regular and dependable giving is a responsibility we all share as members of Emmanuel no matter how often you may attend Church.

The stewardship program began on Sunday October 9th. On the 9th we heard about our dedicated staff and all that they do for Emmanuel. On Sunday October 16th you will learn more about our church building and how it is used not only for our worship services but also for many community organizations and what an important part it plays in our community. On Sunday October 23rd you will learn more about our outreach programs. Please pray throughout the three week program to consider the financial commitment you will make on Sunday October 30th, commitment Sunday.

We are grateful for your continued financial support of Emmanuel. Thank you!

Respectfully, your Stewardship and Financial Ministry Teams