

Dear People of Bethlehem,

God bless you for all that you do to bear witness to God's grace and love in this world. With open doors and open hearts, we as a congregation welcome everyone to the love of God. We fling wide the doors for the grieving and the joyous, the stranger and the friend. Then we carry that grace beyond our doors to any who are in need of healing and hope. Thank you for your stewardship of grace. Your hands, hearts and financial gifts make it possible for us to serve the world together, in ways that we could never do alone.

- Our theme for this year's stewardship emphasis is "Open Hearts – Open Doors." We are blessed to be a congregation that welcomes all, and then carries that welcoming heart to a world in need.
- If you regularly make a financial commitment to Bethlehem, thank you for your stewardship. We couldn't do it without you.
- Your council is working diligently to create our 2027 budget. **In order to meet rising costs and meet our ministry goals, we estimate that an increase of 5% in giving, or roughly \$36,000 will be needed.** If all of us were willing to increase our giving for the coming year, to whatever degree is possible or most meaningful for each, we could easily meet that goal.
- Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give and fill out the enclosed commitment card. **Bring your commitment card with you to church on October 11th, return it to the church office, or submit your pledge virtually using this link - <https://forms.gle/J8r4d7aYZx5gkxfP6>**
- Thank you for all you do to make our ministry possible at Bethlehem. Thank you for your generous and faithful stewardship that allows us to do such expansive and joyous ministry in our community.
- We are making a difference as we serve neighbors, preschool and immigrant families.
- We are making a difference as a Lutheran voice in our community sharing the radical promise of God's grace and love for all.
- **Online Giving** – You can give automatically online through **Vanco** or your **bank's bill pay**. If you give in this way, and have not re-examined the amount of that auto pay in the last few years, we encourage you to do so this year.
- **Other Creative Giving Strategies** – If you are able to **pre-pay** your pledged amount, that helps our financial team tremendously. You can also give via **stock** or **mandatory distribution** from retirement accounts.
- **First Time Giving** – If you have never made a financial commitment to Bethlehem, please consider doing so. Give in any amount and see how it changes both you and the world.
- **How Can We Help?** If you need to decrease or stop your giving for any reason, we understand. We invite you to please reach out, so that we can be of support to you and your family.

We are sincerely grateful for each and every one of you. Your participation in this community of faith gladdens our hearts and increases our joy. Communities like ours are places where hope is found, healing is possible, and service is lived out.

Thank you for your Stewardship,  
Pastor Laura, Pastor Sam, and your BLC Council