



# ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I mentioned in the past two Newsletter Articles, this fall we are undertaking a stewardship campaign at St. Paul's. The reasons for this are twofold. First, church leadership, including myself, are desiring to be more intentional, wise, and faithful in planning our annual budget and using our resources. Second, and most importantly, we want to take an opportunity at St. Paul's to pause and sit under God's Word in regard to stewardship and have it lead us in making intentional decisions. Proverbs 14:8 declares, "The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way..." Ultimately that's what we are going to be about in this campaign. We're intentionally discerning our way of stewardship in light of God's Word.

So, here's the plan. From October 18<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>, we're going to hear God's Word through 5-minute "temple talks" before service, bulletin inserts, newsletter articles, and letters. During these weeks, we will be asking you to prayerfully consider what you give in light of his Word. All of this will then culminate on Stewardship Sunday where we'll fill out pledge cards for 2021 and then celebrate with pie exchange.

Now, don't let the pledge cards scare you. First, they are completely voluntary. Second, only the financial secretary will see them (and she knows what you give anyways). Third, they are simply a *tool* for you to intentionally consider what God is leading you to give and for the church leadership to responsibly plan its 2021 budget. Think of it this way. If your family was living beyond its means—what would your approach be? You'd seek to balance the budget by seeing what you've got coming in, and then planning to spend accordingly. The pledge cards will practically help us to do this on a church-wide scale while at the same time helping you to thoughtfully consider what you give in light of God's Word. It really is that simple!

Finally, if you have been unable to come to Sunday Service due to COVID-19 concerns, you can still participate. We will be posting Sunday temple talks and all print materials on our website at <https://www.stpaulssarver.com/stewardship>.

May God bless you as you sit under the Word praying for his will to be done in your stewardship of his gifts.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Shawn Smith