

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



COMO PARK
L U T H E R A N

Generosity continues to grow in the United States—generosity even grew during the pandemic. However, the median Protestant only gave 0.62% of their income to the church.

For most people, the reason has less to do with their wealth or income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. For comparison, the average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75 (over \$1,000 if one is purchased each day of the year).

Regular, sustained giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, many of us can find \$2.75 per day. As you think and pray about your generosity this year, consider how becoming a sustaining donor may help you become more generous.

From the Stewardship Chair:

When I was a young adult, learning how to “do church”, I had difficulty understanding the difference between capital funds and operational funds. My first year at Como Park, the Narthex addition was just being completed, and capital funds were needed to fulfill financial obligations. Then came the first-for-me annual appeal, which gave me some pause. I didn’t understand at the time, but came to realize later, how my contribution to the building fund (capital), and my contribution to the annual (operational) fund were both essential to be able to “do church”. We had a beautifully improved building which needed our support, and we had a breadth of mission and ministry that I found unmatched in any other place. I learned that a predictable percentage of my income, no matter how humble, made a huge difference.

~ Ed. Krum

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PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR BUDGETING AND SPENDING

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, “Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.” (**Matthew 6:33**)

Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and the Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this, you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.

