



St. Peter Lutheran Church
243 Benedict Avenue
Norwalk, OH 44857
419-668-2856

<https://www.stpeter-elca.org>

October 14, 2021

Dear Friends at St. Peter Lutheran Church:

Remember last year as the world was shutting down, there were serious concerns about what effect that would have on the church? Look at us now as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. Many of us feared a scarcity world would take over, but that is not what happened. God has been abundantly present.

Long before anyone heard of COVID-19, Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of our Northwestern Ohio Synod had determined that 2021 would be designated as the Year of Generosity. He chose as our verse of the year: *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* (Matthew. 6:21) Even before the pandemic wreaked havoc in our lives, God knew that 2020 and 2021 would be times where our generosity might be tested, and the people of God would face new challenges.

But face them we did. So, THANK YOU for the ways in which you stepped up to continue to worship, to care for one another, and to look for opportunities to share the Gospel when our community so clearly needed the Gospel during the pandemic. You demonstrated significant generosity to make certain that this ministry remained strong.

I believe that through this crisis, God has reminded us of our need to walk together, to continue to innovate, and to step up the ways in which we share God’s love with a world that still so desperately needs to recognize God’s presence.

St. Peter is looking forward. God is calling us to great new adventures and your generosity will help us accomplish so much.

As we enter into our *Growing in Generosity* campaign this year, let’s think about all the ways that we see generosity and abundance.

In Christ,
Pastor Ann Marshall



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RECOGNIZE YOUR NEED TO GIVE

It is a fundamental spiritual and psychological principle that life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded or it turns in upon itself and you lose it. “Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (*Matthew 16:25*) We each have a deep inherent need to give. To give is to live!

But unfortunately, instead of focusing on our own need to give, all too often we center on the need of the church to receive. The church does seek our support but we must remember it is God’s Church and it will prosper and flourish in God’s own good time whether we give to it or not. The wonder of it all is what God invites us to be a part of--God’s church and to experience the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending its mission.

Just as a coin, Christian giving has two sides. For too long, we centered mostly on the side entitled “The Need of the Church”. We need to begin concentrating on the side headed “My Need to Give” for giving is an integral part of spiritual life and growth.



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