

Pastor Tim's Message

Why do we give? Why do we give our time to volunteer when our lives are so hectic? Why do we give our money when our budget is tight?

For many of us, we give because we want to help, we want to give back, and we want to leave this world a little bit better. We all want our lives to matter. We need as human beings to know that our lives have meaning and purpose. That we have given our time and money to the things that will make a difference.

Our giving, then, is a visible statement of our priorities, our values, and our faith. In scripture, Jesus tells a parable of giving to help the hungry, the needy, and the stranger and then puts a twist on it by saying, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me."

In other words, when we give we are participating in the larger ministry that Jesus Christ calls us to as his disciples. Our giving breaks us out of our narrow world view to be connected to a larger vision, to each other as a community, and most importantly to the love of God.

Our giving is a bold statement of faith and it does make a difference. Over the next two months we are engaged in a larger vision to care for our church home, parsonage, and grounds left to us by those faithful followers of Christ who have preceded us. Added to this we have the opportunity to give to our church budget that will fund all our ministries that reach beyond our church walls.

So, why do we give? We give so that the circle of God's love continues to expand and spread beyond our church community to the local community and to the world. We give so that we can expand our ministries to children, youth and adults in our own congregation and we can welcome new families into our midst. We give so we can continue to make God's love real to the community and world around us by promising safe emergency shelter to homeless families in need, providing caring child development services to working parents through Sonlight, community gardens, Parish Nurse programs and more.

We invite you to pray for our combined annual stewardship and capital campaigns. We also invite you to pray about why you give, how this church has and is continuing to touch our lives, and how through our giving we can expand our ministries to reach even more people with the Good News of our faith. Finally, we urge you to pray about making a commitment on Sunday, November 5th to the larger ministry and vision we have as a church community to "Make God's Love Real."

In God's Love

Connie Pukaite
Combined Campaign Chair

Pastor Tim