



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we step into a new year, we are excited to introduce the theme for our 2025 General Fund Stewardship Campaign: "**Devoted.**"

Every fall, we take time to reflect on our commitment to this faith community—celebrating the ways we've shared God's love, served others, and grown in faith together. This is also a season to consider how each of us can contribute to the ministry that lies ahead. One important way to demonstrate your devotion is by sharing a portion of the financial blessings that God has given you. Enclosed with this letter, you'll find a Plan for Giving card and a Plan for Serving card. Your pledges play a vital role in helping First Lutheran prepare for the year ahead. Please bring your cards to worship on Sunday, November 10, or Wednesday, November 13, as we offer up our commitments together during a special time of dedication.

This fall, we will explore the theme of being "Devoted" in our upcoming sermon series, beginning October 20, 2024:

- **Devoted to Worship** – The early church gathered daily in worship, both in the temple and in their homes. At the heart of stewardship is recognizing that all we have comes from God. When we offer our time, talents, and treasures, we do so as an act of worship and gratitude.
- **Devoted to Community** – The early believers cared deeply for one another, sharing in fellowship and life together. Stewardship calls us to be devoted to the community God has placed us in and to support one another in faith and love.
- **Devoted to Learning** – The early Christians were eager to grow in their faith, constantly seeking God's word and wisdom. Stewardship is also about devoting our minds and hearts to continual learning and spiritual growth.
- **Devoted to Sharing** – In the early church, no one was left in need, as the community generously shared their resources. Our stewardship reflects this spirit, giving not out of obligation but from a place of love and care for others.

As we approach this crucial time of year, we need your support to finish 2024 on solid ground. By the end of the third quarter, our year-to-date expenses reached \$1,267,243, while income stood at \$1,117,784, leaving a year-to-date deficit of (\$149,458). Though we were blessed to start the year with a positive balance of \$94,477, we have since had to dip into our cash reserves to cover operating costs. **Your special gift today could help reduce this deficit and strengthen our financial position as we close the year.** Let us embrace this season of stewardship with open hearts, fully devoted to the mission God has set before us. With God's guidance, we can continue the vital work of spreading God's love and truth.

Thank you for your faithful dedication and generous support.

Yours in Christ,

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