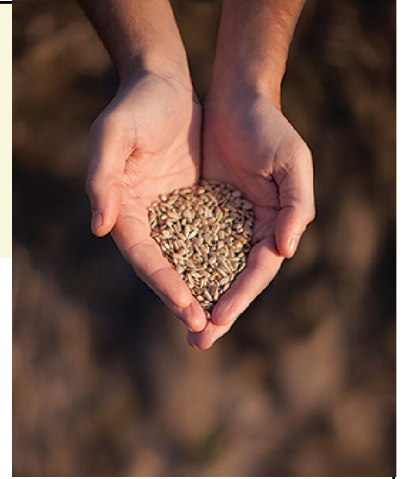


LIVING GENEROUSLY



October 12, 2016

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Congratulations and thank you for your participation in the success of our 14th annual Chocolate Extravaganza this past weekend! The event was a testament to your stewardship and attitude toward outreach.

On Sunday, October 16, we kick off our annual giving campaign. Over the next four weeks, we will explore how acknowledging God's generosity to us can unleash greater generosity in ourselves. Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his book, "In God's Hands" says, "This is a God who intervenes on our behalf, not because we deserve it, but because God's love is freely given. ***It is grace.*** It is not earned; it cannot be earned. It does not need to be earned."

Your generosity, in response to all God has given you, generates mission and changes lives. Here is our road map for the coming weeks of our *Living Generously* campaign:

- ◆ Each Sunday, from October 16 through November 6, we will hear personal stories of friends in our community and the practice of intentional giving and gratitude.
- ◆ On Sunday, October 30, you will receive your pledge packet. Pray over your pledge to Emmanuel for 2017.
- ◆ On Sunday, November 6, the preacher will weave his/her personal stewardship story into the sermon.
- ◆ Bring your pledge commitment to worship on November 13. You will be asked to drop it in the bowl on the altar during the service and we will pray over them.

We pray that Emmanuel will receive pledge commitments from 100% of our worship community. May each of us remain open to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in a faithful response to being called to Live Generously.

We will pray that your giving will come from a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of this community and the gift we have in Jesus, the one who does not leave our side. Our lives are enriched when we give not from a perspective of "what is my fair share," or even "what I can afford." Rather, our faith comes alive when we give from a grace-filled and grateful heart. Giving and living generously gives us strength and hope for the journey ahead.

Thank you for joining us as we consider how we can live more fully into a generous life. May our exploration open us to a new spirit of generosity.

Our pledges are not about giving to the church. Our pledges are about being who we were designed to be, trusting that we will have enough and giving some away. To practice giving is to practice letting go.

Yours in Christ,

Beth Cronk, Bishop's Warden

Jane M. Tonokawa, Stewardship Chair