

## Partners in Christ:

*God has showered us in incredible blessings. As a church we have been blessed with incredible brothers and sisters in Christ, a place to come and meet with God for worship, and opportunities to bless our community. We have been blessed in our homes, and families with those who care about us. We have discovered that God has also blessed us in our finances through work and through wisdom.*

*As we enter into our third year of worship we have the opportunity to Pray, Plan, and Pledge to make thanksgiving a part of our life and relationship with Jesus. Like the people of God before us we desire to give God the best of what He has given us.*

*"When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. Then you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household."*

*- Deuteronomy 26*

## **PRAY**

### **Spiritual, Financial Goals;**

As we have discovered in our "Finding Financial Peace" series, our finances are a major part of our spiritual lives. Our relationship with Jesus should show itself in how we manage the gifts God has given us. We have also discovered that if we are not careful in managing our blessings they can enslave us, frustrate us, and get in the way of our relationship with Jesus.

During the next week, commit yourself to pray and seek God's plan for your life. Consider the blessings He has given to you. Discover in your heart how you want to respond to His gifts. Examine your life; what would you invite Jesus to change in your financial life? Do you want to change the way you see money or success? Is something standing in the way of living out your desire to give thanks? Are there debts you need to pay off? Is there a purchase you shouldn't make? Do you need to reach out for help? Is God calling you to offer wisdom and guidance to others?

*Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.*

*Isaiah 55:6*

## **PLAN**

### **Plan your goals**

The goals God has given you are just wishes if you haven't considered how to act on them. Consider making a file and keeping notes of your meditations and your plans to make your goals a reality.

### **Plan your giving**

God has given us a plan for returning our thanks to Him. He calls it "The Firstfruits" and it means returning to God the first and the best of what He has given to us – not the leftovers. You might consider making your offering the first check you write when you get paid. Planning your giving will help you reach your giving goals. Use the chart below to consider your gifts.

Typical contributions you can make

| Weekly | Monthly  | Annually |
|--------|----------|----------|
| 300    | 1,300.00 | 15,600   |
| 200    | 866.67   | 10,400   |
| 150    | 650.00   | 7,800    |
| 125    | 541.67   | 6,500    |
| 100    | 433.33   | 5,200    |
| 80     | 346.67   | 4,160    |
| 60     | 260.00   | 3,120    |
| 40     | 173.33   | 2,080    |
| 20     | 86.67    | 1,040    |
| 15     | 65.00    | 780      |
| 10     | 43.33    | 520      |
| 6      | 26.00    | 312      |

## **PLEDGE**

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*- 2 Corinthians 9:7*




### **Fill out your pledge card**

Your pledge card is a tool for personal growth and reflection. It will not be used to plan the church budget, nor will anyone but you know what you have pledged.

Write your goals on the pledge card using the back (don't write on the back of the cut-offs!) if you need more space. Also write your goals on the Bible/Checkbook cut-off so that you can reflect on them during the year.

Write your firstfruits giving goals on the card. The card will help you to calculate your typical gift and your annual goal. It will also help you to consider your gift as a percentage of your income to encourage firstfruits thinking. Don't forget to keep a record of your goal on the Bible/Checkbook cut-off. Finally, write your annual goal on the anonymous cut-off.

## **Return your Pledge Card**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <br>I/we commit a total of \$ _____ in 2012 to the ministry of<br> <b>EDGEWATER</b><br>LUTHERAN CHURCH | <br>After prayerful and thankful consideration of God's blessings He has revealed to me these Spiritual, Financial Goals for 2012:<br>Goals: _____<br>_____<br>_____<br>Giving Goal: Weekly-Biweekly-Monthly \$ _____<br>Which is \$ _____ annually and _____ % of my income<br>Signature (s) _____ Date: _____ | <small>*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God</small> |
|  |  |   |

Cut off the cut-offs. Place the Bible/Checkbook portion in your Bible or checkbook. Place the center portion in a sealed envelope with your name on it. You will receive this unopened next year. Bring the sealed envelope and the pledge cut-off with you to church on Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>. During the service you will be invited to present them to God on the altar.

### ***A prayer to guide our considerations***

*Gracious Lord Jesus Christ,  
we know what love is  
because of your love for us.  
Nothing, neither walls  
nor time can contain  
or exhaust your love for us.  
Keep us firmly rooted in your love  
as our source of life.  
Bless us with the joy of being a part  
of your mission in this place.  
We ask this blessing on our  
ministries in the gracious name  
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen*



## ***Finding Financial Peace***

*"Freely you have received,  
freely give."*