



Christ Church Family -

2024 has been an incredibly fruitful season of ministry. Together, we have faithfully responded to Christ's call to be Here For Good in worship, mission, small groups, Bible studies, and ministries with adults, youth, and children. At the same time, while we are seeing growth in all measurable ministries, we also need to **grow in generosity**.

As such, the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:7 apply: *But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also [grow] in this grace of giving.*

As we write, we are currently \$240K behind on giving towards our annual ministry budget of \$2,825,379. This is due to several causes. First, operational expenses are rising. For example, our property and casualty insurance costs have increased 46% over the last five years in addition to utility-related increases. Second, seasonal giving patterns persist. Historically, June through September are the lowest giving months, averaging 28% of annual giving.

In response, your staff and the Finance Committee have continued to make adjustments. Operationally, lower rates have been negotiated for internet, pest control, and telephone, while lawn maintenance and janitorial services have been renewed with no cost increase. Programmatically, staff have evaluated and adjusted their ministry expenses to meet current giving challenges.

Christ Church is blessed by the 430 families who actively give to the ministries of Christ Church. Of these, 234 families made pledges totaling \$1,617,398 and have given \$1,088,188. In addition, \$344,286 has been received from our 196 non-pledging families.

Now, we are calling every Christ Church family to participate in the **Growing Generosity** campaign this fall to meet our current needs.



The goal of this campaign is twofold. First, we are encouraging EVERYONE to participate. As you have seen above, we need each individual and family to *grow in the grace of giving* to live out our mission as a church. Second, we aim to raise \$250,000 to overcome the gap between expenses and giving completely.

Thus, we are asking you to do the following:

1. Attend the *State of the Church* event on Sunday, September 22, at noon in the Sanctuary. We will present a clear picture of Christ Church's current giving and spending and how it is doing good in the church, community, and world, followed by a time of Q&A and discussion.
2. *Grow your generosity* and make an offering over and above your planned giving for 2024. Based on the number of giving family units and our current shortfall, we suggest each family consider a gift of \$600. If this is beyond your current capacity, please give what you can. We want all to participate! If this is well within your capacity, consider offering more. It will take all of us giving gifts of all sizes. We encourage you to give this gift online at christchurchsl.org/giving-page and select *Growing Generosity* for the fund.
3. Add a *green leaf, symbol of growth*, to the tree in the Gathering Hall or lobby of the Family Life Center on Sunday mornings beginning September 22.

Christ Church, you excel in so much in your faithful response to God. Let us continue to *grow in the grace of giving together.*

Robert Coffman, *Lay Leader*
Kevin Delaney, *Church Council Chairperson*
Wayne Gray, *Finance Chairperson*

Sheryl Romero, *Business Administrator*
Rev. Dr. Daniel Irving, *Senior Pastor*