

STEWARDSHIP



Three Ways to Give Back What God Has Provided

Dear Fellow Disciples of St. Thomas:

First and foremost, we want to take this opportunity to thank each of you during these still challenging times. Due to your prayers, continued support, and patience, we have made it through an unprecedented period.

As we look to the new year, even though the pandemic is still around us, there are numerous ways that each of us can make a difference. So please reflect on the gifts that God has given you and see what ways you can repay back that generosity. Below are a few ideas to get you started!

TIME

We realize that the pandemic has had an impact on everyone's schedules, but if you do find yourself with some free time, here are a few areas where you can help:

1. **Cleaning House** – To keep our costs down, we are asking for volunteers to help with some light housekeeping at the church – vacuuming, dusting, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the church if you are interested!
2. **Helping Out the Shut Ins** – There are a few members that just can't seem to get out as much as they would like to, so you could help them by picking up groceries for them, running quick errands or just give them a call to see how they are doing.
3. **Teaching God's Word** – We are still working on the logistics of possibly having Sunday School (during the Sunday service) and catechism (timing and format TBD). Once that is figured out, we would need teachers. Lessons would be provided.
4. **Looking Out for the Other Guy and Gal** – While traditional outreach efforts may be difficult to do these days, we could still do some "drop off" drives like Winter Coat Drive, Diaper Drive, Canned Food Drive, Toys for Tots etc. to help others less fortunate than us!

TALENT

Do you have any hidden (or known) talents that you could offer as your gift?

1. **Do It Yourselfer** – Grab a hammer, paint brush (or whatever tool is your favorite) and help out if any minor maintenance/repairs are needed around the church.
2. **Green Thumb** – Depending on the season, we would need volunteers to plant/water flowers, spread mulch, pull weeds, rake leaves etc.

3. **Techie** – Do you have a knack for computers? Maybe help out in the Tech Booth (slides, music etc) during the Thursday or Sunday service. Or help out if we start using Zoom meetings for Catechism/Confirmation classes.
4. **Music To Our Ears** – Though music and singing may be limited during the services, let us know if you would like to be a guest musician during any of the services.
5. **Room For Rent** – Do you know any one that would be interested in renting the classrooms and/or multi-purpose room?

TREASURE

This is an area that everyone has an opportunity to participate!!

Each year, we ask the congregation to fill out a pledge card for their offering commitment for the upcoming year. This will help us to prepare the budget for 2021. Once we have that information, we budget for the money coming in but also for the bills we have to pay. We hope that we are projected to be “in the black” (the money coming in is more than the money going out!). With the Montessori school leaving, that lost rental income (\$28,800 per year) had a major impact on the “money coming in” amount. So please keep that in mind as you complete your pledge card. As always, you will be able to review the 2021 budget once it is completed.

Your generous offerings allow us to cover our normal “operating expenses” (pastor and staff salaries, mortgage, utilities, supplies etc) but also allow us to support our outreach programs - food pantries, our sister congregations at Grace in Action and in Mbulu, Tanzania and participating in Christ Net. Unfortunately, some of our fellowship opportunities have been limited lately, but we are hoping that will change soon!

We do want to thank everyone that has contributed to the ongoing Capital Funds campaign to allow us to make necessary improvements to the Church, and to the Bridging the Gap campaign that helped us get through some tough times when various incoming revenues had slowed down. Those “extra” contributions have helped considerably!

So please have your pledge card turned in by XXX. You can return the card by:

1. Bringing it to our Commitment Worship Services on Thursday XXX or Sunday XXX. We will celebrate all that God has done and continues to do through St. Thomas.
2. Mailing it to, or dropping it off, at the church office
3. Noting your 2021 annual pledge amount in an email and emailing it to the church office (office@stthomasgi.com)

Whoever turns in their pledge by XXX, will be put in drawing for a XXX gift card!

We understand that some of you may not feel comfortable coming to in-person services yet. So you can mail, or drop off, your weekly/monthly offerings to the church office, and you can also make your offering online. It is very easy, safe and secure! Attached are some instructions on how to do that.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, generosity and support. We look forward to being able to continue God’s work with you!