

FOOTPRINTS

The monthly newsletter of

Followers of Christ Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Pastor

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Dear Followers of Christ,

Have you ever had to take a risk? We all have, right? In fact, you can't be alive without taking risks, many of which we are not even aware of from day to day. Still, risks can be difficult and scary. Not every risk is a risk worth taking. There are indeed bad risks that are foolish to take; risks which would almost certainly result in losing more than you'd gain.

A good risk, however, is a risk we take for someone who is trustworthy, someone we can believe and trust. We take risks for the people we love, for instance; and for the people who love us. We commit ourselves to our loved ones – our time, money, resources, energy, and effort – to take care of them. We don't always know how everything will turn out when we commit ourselves in that way and take such a risk. We might lose more than we will gain. Nevertheless, we take risks for the people we love, and for the people who love us, because we believe those risks are worth taking.

Living generously is risky business. When we trust that everything we have – our time, talents, and treasures – is God's rather than our own, we risk generosity. We risk sacrifice. Why? Because the God we know in Jesus Christ risked everything to save us. He sacrificed his life so that we might live and truly be free. He gave his life so that his church might proclaim – in word and deed – that Gospel to the world.

Your generosity and mine is what enables Followers of Christ Lutheran Church to share and experience the Gospel. Would you join me in risking generosity for the sake of this congregation? Would you join me in sharing generously of your time, talents, and treasures for the ministry of the Gospel in this congregation?

I invite you to prayerfully consider giving a tithe (10% of your income) to the ministry of this congregation. I know that giving a tithe (10% of my income) has been a worthwhile risk and blessing to my family and me as we grow in our own generosity.

Or if the tithe is something to grow toward, I invite you to prayerfully consider growing the amount you are currently giving by 10, 15, or 20%. For example, if you are currently giving \$50 per week, a 20% growth would bring your giving to \$60 per week.

Please bring your completed faith commitment card, which includes your pledge and time and talent form, to the service on **May 6th, Generosity Sunday**. We will place those in a basket at the altar, along with our offerings.

Our generosity for the sake of the Gospel is a risk worth taking. The ministry to which God has called us is worth supporting and experiencing.

Please join me in living generously and in experiencing the life God has for us. And thank you for your generosity!

Pastor Brad