



November 29, 2022

*Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually,
¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Dear Church Family,

This is the **easiest** stewardship letter I've had to write. It is also the **hardest** letter I've had to write.

It's the **easiest** because our church is thriving! We have welcomed over 275 new members since we reopened the building. Our Sunday school is packed! Confirmation has over 70, 7th and 8th graders. Our high school program is larger than it has been in 5 years. Outreach ministry is caring for more and more people every day. Sunday worship, both in-person and online, is booming. On top of all of that, we are blessed to have an amazing, talented, and dedicated staff who love our church and what they do! We are not only back from the pandemic—we are back stronger than we've ever been!

And we are just beginning! We have plans to kick off small group studies, parenting and marriage training, and an exciting program to grow our personal spiritual lives. We are continually working to become the best place for families in the North Shore to grow deep faith, make good friends, and reach out in love to others.

Now the **hard** part. I need you all to know I am having some health issues. My aortic heart valve replacement 24 years ago is aging and causing congestive heart failure. I am not worried and expect to be just fine! In December, I will have surgery to implant an automatic defibrillator/pacemaker. This should help restore my heart's function and allow me to gear up for all we hope to accomplish in 2023!

What I also need you to **hear** and **understand** is that despite my struggle in all things...ALL THINGS...I am thankful to God. Gratitude is my word for 2023. Today and always, I give thanks to God for my family, for my friends, and for this church family. You are all such a blessing in my life. There is nowhere I would rather be and no one I would rather love and care for than all of you! You are all amazing! And I am so grateful that together we have created this place where God is real and faith is alive...Every Day!

No matter what the future holds, my theme is "Always Grateful!" It's the way followers of Jesus live our best lives.

And now the **ask**. We are building the budget for 2023. More than anything else, we need to hire staff who will not only keep us strong but help us grow. What my heart issues helped me realize is that we are understaffed to be the church we need to be. We need more help. We need staff to support ministries new and old that teach, care, love, train, and support all the wonderful people who walk through our doors and those outside who need a touch of love. We need staff to help with a volunteer crisis and help us to grow our youth programs so Pastor Bruce and I can spend our energy on growing the faith lives of adults young and old.

So what do we need? We need every family of this congregation to **grow** their giving by at least **7%**. If you give \$1000 a year that would mean your increase would be \$70 for the whole year. That's an increase of a little over a dollar per Sunday. If you can do **more**, thank you! Diane and I are increasing our giving by 7% because that is how much we love this place and how grateful we are for you and this wonderful church.

My hope is that you will give because you are grateful! Grateful for everything you have and all the blessings in your life. My hope is that you will give because you are grateful that God has created a church family that surrounds you and your family with love in the best and the worst of life. My hope is that you will give for all the others who are lost and need to find a place to belong and to be loved by God.

I am asking that you return your pledge by December 11. The BEST way to respond is to go online to foxpointchurch.org. Or, you can download and print this page to indicate your pledge (below) and mail it to our office or drop it off at the Welcome Desk.

Thank you, my friends and my family! 2023 is going to be our best year yet!

Always Grateful,

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill Knapp
Senior Pastor

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS



**Fox Point Lutheran Church
General Fund**

As a commitment to ensure faith is REAL and vibrant in our church.

I / WE WILL PLEDGE FOR 2023:

Increase by 7%

\$ _____



RETURN THIS PLEDGE CARD



**Fox Point Lutheran Church
General Fund**

As a commitment to ensure faith is REAL and vibrant in our church.

I / WE WILL PLEDGE FOR 2023:

Increase by 7%

\$ _____

First & Last Name _____

Address: _____

(City),

(State)

(Zip)