

Accept a challenge

means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities. Paul writes,

“... the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
2 Corinthians 9:6

Saturday, February 27

Readings: Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39

Prayer: *Creator God, Life is Your gift to me.*

Through Baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your Presence in our world. Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call.

I pray especially for those who serve You in ministry throughout this congregation. May we bear the “Good News” to those in need. Keep us close to You.

Open the minds and hearts of many other men, women and young people that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom in our congregation, our community and our world.

*For if not us, who?
If not here, where?
If not now, when?
If not for Your Kingdom, why?*

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.²²

Focal Verse: “Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.” Psalm 27:11

Reflection: Our God is a God of abundance. There are sufficient resources to accomplish all the mission and ministry our Lord calls us to do. Christian stewardship involves vision. Christian discipleship involves growth—and discipleship includes stewardship. We encourage our members to grow in every area of their lives. We ask people to pray more, read scripture more, and grow in grace and knowledge of the truth.

Growth in giving by celebrating and practicing generosity is one way this is enabled. For many years, churches have encouraged members to grow in their giving by one percent of their income.

Grow by one dollar each week. Thus, if your current offering is \$50.00, this challenge encourages you to give \$51 next week, \$52 the following week, and so on until you reach a tithe or whatever goal you feel God is calling you to give. A tithe is not a ceiling. One does not have to stop growing at ten percent of income.

Most of us don’t miss a buck! We drop a buck with little consideration almost every day...and never miss it.²³ Choose now to be intentional in discipleship and stewardship.

What do you hear?
How does it make you feel?
Toward what are you being drawn?
What do you sense you should do?

²² Taken from U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response”, <http://www.mpls-synod.org>

²³ The Celebrate Generosity Stewardship Program, Eugene Grimm, © 2005, 2006