



## Our Promise to Him

**"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made."** (Psalm 45:13)  
**"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ."**  
 (2 Corinthians 1:20).

**"Our Promise to Him"** is our capital campaign to help meet our budgetary commitment for our mortgage.

- Our first step was to seek out what Scripture tells us about "stewardship" (keeping God first is our lives).
- Our second step is to seek God's counsel in prayer.

To that end, we had a prayer vigil focusing on God's Promise to and for us on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Two more vigils are planned for:

- November 6th (3-9 p.m.): We will focus on our stewardship - its privileges and obligations.
- November 13th (3-9 p.m.): We will reflect how God dedicated His Son for us. Our response - how can we dedicate ourselves to God?

Included in this mailing is your campaign "Promise" (pledge card). Please prayerfully consider what your promise to Our Savior Lutheran Ministries can be and return the card at your earliest convenience to the office.

Also enclosed is your luncheon invitation for:

### Celebration Sunday

All Church Luncheon

**November 15th at 12:15 p.m.**

Please plan on attending!

Previous campaigns helped build the buildings – now we must build the kingdom.

**Our Goal** for this capital campaign is to raise \$40,000 a month to offset the mortgage payment for our facility. That means from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012 (36 months), our goal is \$1,440,000.

**TOGETHER**, God and the members of Our Savior can meet this goal. The goal is certainly ambitious, but so are our dreams and vision of the future!

## Tithing ?

If you are honest, right now you are trying to decide if you want to read any further. Perhaps:

- you feel you are tithing, so you don't need to read this.
- you feel guilt at the very word, because try as you might, you just can't seem to tithe.
- you have mixed feelings of confusion, guilt, or apathy.

The first Biblical mention of the word *tithe* is in Genesis 14 where Abram gives a tithe to the high priest, Melchizedek. The next mention of it is in Genesis 28 where Jacob states "...And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you." (Verse 22) The Old Testament abounds with references and "mandates" to the people of Israel to tithe. But does that apply to us?

### THE REASON FOR THE TITHE

While the practice of tithing provided for the Levites and Priests, its purpose was never to benefit those in the ministry. Tithing was about *honoring God*. It teaches the person who tithes that God was the Supplier of his needs and that he should therefore honor Him.

*"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always."*  
 Deut. 14:22-23

Tithing is a reflection of what is *in the*

*heart* of the worshiper: *trust in God*. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt. 6:21).

Some Christians balk at tithing and will appeal that the New Testament is about grace and not Law. But this assumes that the standards of grace are *lower* than the standards of the Law, or worse still, that grace-received has no obligations. But that assumption completely misses the direction of the New Testament: it is not a move away from Law, but the *fulfilment* of the Law.

Now there are some, who simply cannot give very much. But many people could if they wanted to. And, yes, there are some who could give well beyond a mere "10% tithe." God calls on us to examine ourselves, to examine our priorities, to look at

## “Tithing” (cont)

the blessings we have received from Him and to be generous.

The Israelites were commanded to give 10 percent under a covenant that could not make them perfect. But we have the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who *does* make us perfect before God. How much more joyfully can we give to God under the new covenant?

And yet it seems that in America today, even though we have so much more than the Israelites, people give on average less than half the percentage than the Israelites did. Many people today give less to the church than they spend on luxury items.

A person who has faith in Jesus Christ

does not worry about whether tithing is commanded in the New Testament. That person is transformed by Christ and is *generous*. Such a person wants to give as much as he/she is able to support the gospel and its work. Christians are to give generously — but giving is a *result* of their relationship with God, not a way to earn it. We are given grace through *faith*, not through tithing.

Some people act as if Christ liberates us from the law so that we can keep more for ourselves. That is false - He liberates us from the penalty of the law so that we can be free to serve him *more*, as loving children and not merely as slaves. He frees us so we can have faith instead of selfishness.

As a believer living under the covenant of grace, our “tithe” is no longer to be taken literally as an obligation and a product of the law. Our tithe is an honest and sincere gift of faith, recognizing the abundance of the gift God gave us through His Son, Jesus.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” Matthew 13:44

### Top Five List

#### What are the Top Five Reasons People Do Not Give to Church?

Frequently, we hear of the “top” reasons for this or for that. While browsing the internet, I found the following list of the **Top Five Reasons Why People Do Not Give to Church**. Check out if any of these apply to you....

##### Reason 1 - ***I can't afford to give.***

Many use this as an excuse why they do not give offerings. They don't have money to help the ministry, but they can afford lattes, video rentals, eat out, buy toys, etc. According to statistics, those with lower incomes give more than those with higher incomes. Obviously the poor can afford to give. We acknowledge there are times when individuals are scrapping the barrel just to survive. But at times we cannot afford not to give. If we do not give, we may miss out in a blessing from our Heavenly Father.

##### Reason 2 - ***The church is always asking for money.***

If everyone gave, would the church need to ask for money? Because they ask often, the person becomes spite-

ful and refuses to give. Being spiteful is not a fruit of the Spirit. The reality is that for most it is just another excuse to not give.

##### Reason 3 - ***My money won't go far anyways.***

I can only give a little bit each month and it will not go far. This is true, but if what you give is combined with what others give, it could become a large sum of money. Example: You can only give \$5 a month as an offering. 500 other people can only give \$5 per month. Each month there would be \$2,500. If every person did not give because their money will not go far, there would be no money coming in.

##### Reason 4 - ***Money is the root of all evil.***

Money itself is not evil. It is our attitude and what we do with it determines if it is evil.

##### Reason 5 - ***It's my money and I will do with it whatever I choose.***

All your money belongs to God and He trusts you to be a good steward with it. One of the ways of being a



good steward is to give to your church where the money can be used for the kingdom of God.

### **BOTTOM LINE**

There is a mindset in America among many Christians. It is a self-centered attitude. It is more about me and my money than about God and His money. Many put their trust in their finances instead of in God. We are more concerned to build *our* kingdom instead of **His** kingdom. It is about priorities. Keeping in mind all the promises of God, instead of making excuses why we cannot give, we should be asking God to give us a reason why we should not give.