

By the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine!
~Ephesians 3:20

October 12, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past several weeks, we have shared our stewardship message of *Thriving Beyond: Let Go, Trust God, and Rise Up!*... Our goal with this emphasis was to help us as a congregation get in the right frame of mind to successfully navigate *Beyond* the challenges of life and come out as stronger and more vital stewards of God's gifts than ever before. The sermons and moments in mission were intended to help us thrive *beyond* fear, thrive *beyond* doubt, and thrive *beyond* beliefs that are limiting us, as individuals and as a congregation.

With this letter you will find a stamped envelope along with your Pledge / Commitment / Estimate of Giving Card. We don't really have a name for it because it is all three, a pledge, a commitment, and an estimate. With this card we are asking you to prayerfully consider how financially you can Rise Up! to meet the challenges of our time. God does not need your money, but God's work does. Everything that we are and everything that we have comes from God. We are only temporary caretakers, stewards, of all the ways God has and is blessing us. Sunday, October 24, 2021, is Commitment Sunday, when, after prayerfully contemplating how we can Rise Up! we will present our pledge/commitment/estimates to God.

Under non-pandemic circumstances we would have also included a Time and Talent form for you to complete and list all the ways you are willing to serve Christ Jesus through the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, because our understanding of stewardship is all-encompassing. We are not including one this year because so many ways of serving in-person are on hold. Without a form to fill out, we simply ask that you prayerfully consider how you might Rise Up! in this time and put all your gifts in service to the Lord.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless the entire mission and ministry of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Serving and working together in Christ,



Matthew A. Smith, Pastor

P.S. You might be able to Rise Up! this year by converting your regular offering to Simply Giving EFT (electronic fund transfer). If you would like to Rise Up! in this way, simply mark the box on the card and someone will be in touch with you.

Lord, God, you have called us as your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN (ELW, p.317)



**Evangelical Lutheran
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God's work. Our hands.

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