CHRISTCHURCH

November 13, 2026

Dear Christ Church Family,

**Greetings from the Christ Church Vestry!** For those unfamiliar with the vestry, we are the volunteer lay leaders of Christ Church, elected by members and charged with oversight of the non-spiritual matters of church. More importantly, we are members of this community who love Christ Church, are grateful for what God is doing among us, and share in the desire to see His kingdom come in our lives, our city and our world.

**As we approach the end of another year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the gift of generosity and the important role it plays in our lives as Christians**. Generosity is a kingdom value, an expression of gratitude for what God has given us, and a tangible way we participate in his work.

There are many worthy causes and organizations doing meaningful work in our city and around the world, and we are grateful for the many ways our congregation supports them. At the same time, we hope you'll consider the unique place of your local church in your life of faith.

**The Local Church: A Place to Belong, Grow, and Serve**

Christ Church is more than an organization we support. It is a community in which we share in the very life of Christ. It is where we regularly gather at the Lord's Table, where we are baptized into the body of Christ and witness others being welcomed into that same family, where we sit under the reading and preaching of God's Word, and where we are known, loved, and shepherded through the joys and challenges of life.

Whether it's bed frames purchased for neighbors moving into RBJ, fresh produce for children in the neighborhood, or making sure there's relational touchpoints for care for those going through tough times, your generosity helps sustain this mission.

**Giving as an Act of Worship**

Throughout Scripture, generosity is presented as an expression of worship and trust in God. We see this beautifully in the story of the widow who offered two small copper coins. While others gave much larger gifts, Jesus recognized that her offering was especially significant. Her generosity was not measured by its size, but by the heart behind it.

We recognize that each person and family is in a different season of life, with different resources and responsibilities. Our encouragement is to prayerfully consider how generosity might take shape in your life in this season.

No gift is insignificant, and giving is not about comparison or a particular dollar amount. It is an opportunity to participate in God's work with what he has entrusted to us.

**Giving with a Cheerful Heart**

Paul writes, "*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

This is an important reminder that Christian generosity is meant to flow from a willing and joyful heart. We give in response to God's abundant generosity toward us. Our hope is that giving to Christ Church would be a meaningful expression of your worship, gratitude, and commitment to the life and mission we share together.

**So, what do we do?**

- **The enclosed formation guide** has been prepared by our clergy with the hope that it will be a helpful resource for you, whether individually or with your family, as you consider the place of generosity in your life and prayerfully consider your giving in the coming year.
- **Then, on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29,** we invite you to bring the enclosed pledge card to the Lord's Table for Celebration Sunday as a communal expression of prayerful intention and shared commitment to the ministry of Christ Church.

**Thank you for being part of this family.** We are grateful for this community and for the many ways you already give of yourselves - through your prayers, your presence, your service, your hospitality, and your financial generosity.

*Billy Hollis (Senior Warden), Pete Newell (Junior Warden), Natalie Coulter, Clay Davis, Hannah Diller, Craig Doerksen, Amy McLaughlin, Sara Morris, Scott Murphy*

***PS As vestry, in conjunction with our treasurer, Scott Friesen, we thank you for entrusting us with the stewarding of the money you give to our church. We do not take this charge lightly and feel, with conviction, that the resources of Christ Church are spent well, with prayer and thanksgiving.*