

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” —John 3:16

Dear Parish Friends and Family,

Throughout the Bible, we are reminded of God’s **Extravagant Generosity** toward us all. God gives us life, love, community, and everything that we possess. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and your responsiveness to our Church’s immediate financial needs this fiscal year 2016, outlined in my letter last month.

Even as we need your additional help to finish this year in the black, on Sunday, October 9th, we will embark on a three-week annual giving campaign for the purposes of planning for next fiscal year 2017, which begins in January. Our focus will be on God’s **Extravagant Generosity**. You will hear about how God’s abundant gifts have touched our lives...and how we are called to respond to this awesome generosity. Ugandan Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa, Diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara, will be our special guest preacher for **Commitment Sunday, October 23rd** at both morning services.

You know how our ministries here at Good Shepherd have life and give life through the generosity of all our members. Each week, we are nurtured in Word and sacrament. Empowered by the Spirit each week, we can go into the world to care for those who are ill or hurting, and welcome all those searching for a connection to God and community.

You are a part of this “giving community” at Good Shepherd. You know we respond to God’s *extravagant generosity* by being generous, ourselves. While giving levels vary in the congregation all of us are asked to make a gift that reflects God’s extravagant generosity to us, and our care for one another. We are called to make our giving a reflection of God’s giving to us.

The journey of faith is best done in a community. I’m so grateful to be travelling with you. The annual giving campaign is a time to reflect on how the practice of intentional giving is in keeping with all that God has given us. One of the most important passages of the Bible, John 3:16 states, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son”. God so loves each and every one of us that He gave and continues to give.

You will receive your 2017 pledge commitment card in the mail this week. Over the next few weeks, I invite you to prayerfully consider all that God has given you, and bring your pledge card to the altar of the Lord on **Commitment Sunday, October 23rd**, as we continue in God’s mission of Changing Lives and Sharing Christ.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,