



**Freed for the Future: Our Selves, Our Time, and Our Possessions
Stewardship for All Seasons 2018
December 14, 2017 - Update**

We are delighted to announce that our fall stewardship drive, Freed for the Future: Our Selves, Our Time, and Our Possessions, has been a great success! Over the last 8 weeks, we have committed as a congregation to support what God is calling Nativity to do and to be in 2018, and we have reached some important goals along the way.

One of the most exciting achievements is reaching our challenge goal! As of this publishing, we have received 136 Commitment Cards. This is considerably more commitments than we've had in a while, and we're excited that this number is so high. Because we reached and exceeded our goal of having 135 households making a commitment for 2018, we will receive a \$5,000 gift towards our 2018 ministries. We are grateful to the Nativity member who will give this gift, and we are thankful to each household who offered a commitment!

Part of our fall stewardship drive focused on the opportunities for ministry that we have now that we've paid off our mortgage. We are now free to use the monetary giving of the congregation exclusively for ministry, and we made it a goal to match the Freedom for the Future money given in 2017 (about \$98,000) with giving for new initiatives in 2018. Through the cards we have received thus far, over \$94,000 of converted Freedom for the Future and new giving has been committed for next year's ministries. This is wonderful news, and points to a great 2018 full of new and expanded ministries, including a full-time Music Director, improved technology and web presence, and fully funded programs in Worship, Learn, Care, and Give!

We are still taking Commitment Cards, so if you have not yet had a chance to fill yours out, you still have the opportunity to do so. Every card matters, as it helps us plan well and be good stewards of our resources. Thank you for taking the time to offer your commitments.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Rachel

P.S. – If you give automatically and would like to commit to maintaining or increasing your giving for 2018, please contact Pastor Rachel to do so.