



Growing *in* Grace

— CALLED • GIFTED • SERVING • SENT —



FAITHFULLY SERVING SEGUIN SINCE 1870

Grace is the BEGINNING

Our Campaign Refrain

We give because grace has changed us.

We serve because God has called us.

Together, our gifts become ministry.

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a phrase we hope we will add to our weekly rhythms here at Emanuel's: Growing in Grace. It describes where we believe God is leading our congregation, but it also describes how God has always worked among us. Grace comes first.

Before we give, God gives. Before we serve, God calls. Before we ever begin searching for God, God has already found us in Jesus Christ and claimed us through the waters of Holy Baptism. This fall, our stewardship emphasis invites us to consider stewardship as more than supporting a budget. God has entrusted something to every one of us: financial resources, certainly, but also time, abilities, relationships, experiences, knowledge, compassion, creativity, and opportunity.

When those gifts are gathered together, they become worship and music, Christian formation, care for people who are grieving or homebound, welcome for children and families, community partnerships, meals, outreach, and a congregation prepared to serve its neighbors.

During these next four weeks, we invite every household to prayerfully consider two questions: How is God calling us to grow in generosity? And how is God calling us to use our gifts in service?

These are not obligations we owe to God. They are grateful responses to the grace we have already received. This is how Emanuel's continues "Growing in Grace."

In God's grip,

Pastor Marcus & Pastor Rudy

THE VISION WE ARE FUNDING

What God is Calling Us to BECOME



Growing in Grace is not a list of projects. It is a picture of a congregation seeking to proclaim Christ faithfully and serve its neighbors well. Emanuel's 2027-2031 strategic plan calls us to grow across the whole life of the church:

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Deepen worship leadership, sacred music, congregational song, and accessible in-person and digital worship.

FAITH FORMATION

Strengthen children's church, youth ministry, adult learning, Lutheran identity, and day school connections.

CARE & CONNECTION

Expand pastoral care, bereavement, senior, prayer, and lay-care ministries.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Grow community events, GED ministries, school partnerships, Eggapalooza, and local and global service.

FELLOWSHIP & BELONGING

Create intergenerational spaces where people are known, welcomed, supported, and connected.

A CAMPUS FOR MISSION

Steward facilities for worship, accessibility, hospitality, education, outreach, and community life.

Stewardship means asking:

What has God placed into my hands? Where is God calling me to use it?

How might my life become a blessing to someone else?

Some respond through financial generosity. Some teach children, sing, prepare meals, repair buildings, visit the lonely, operate cameras, welcome visitors, organize ministries, tend gardens or pray quietly for others. Most of us are called to several forms of stewardship throughout our lives. Together those gifts become something none of us could accomplish alone. They become worship. They become Christian formation. They become meals and ministries. They become music and prayer. They become care for people who are grieving. They become welcome for children and families. They become a congregation able to serve its neighbors. They become the Gospel embodied in the world.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Every Dollar Becomes MINISTRY

A narrative budget tells the story behind the line items. Rather than separating salaries, utilities, insurance, and supplies from ministry, it shows how those resources make worship, formation, care, outreach, fellowship, and mission possible.

MINISTRY AREA	%	PROPOSED 2027 AMOUNT
Worship, Music & the Arts	17%	\$103,213.48
Faith Formation & Young Generations	10%	\$60,608.04
Care & Connection	9%	\$51,747.38
Mission & Community	10%	\$60,489.45
Fellowship & Belonging	2%	\$14,578.50
A Campus for Mission	29%	\$172,622.27
Leadership & Shared Ministry	23%	\$136,743.88

WHY THIS MATTERS

A utility bill helps keep classrooms, worship spaces, kitchens, offices, and gathering rooms open. Staff compensation equips people to preach, teach, organize, care, communicate, and lead. Insurance protects the places where ministry happens. The budget is not the mission, but it equips the mission.

Growing regular generosity strengthens current ministry while allowing Emanuel's invested and endowed resources to serve the congregation for generations to come.

MORE THAN NUMBERS

What One Gift Can BECOME



The offering placed in worship is never only a transaction. Joined with the gifts of others, it becomes part of a shared ministry no single household could sustain alone.

A CHILD HEARS THE STORY

A classroom is prepared. A teacher is equipped. A child learns that the promises of God include them.

A CONGREGATION SINGS

Choirs, handbells, instrumentalists, radio, livestreaming, and worship leaders help the Gospel be heard and sung.

A NEIGHBOR IS CARED FOR

A grieving family receives support. A homebound member is remembered. A caregiver discovers they are not alone.

A COMMUNITY IS WELCOMED

Outreach events, education, Luther House ministries, and partnerships create places where neighbors meet one another in dignity.

A CAMPUS BECOMES MINISTRY

Rooms become classrooms, kitchens, gathering spaces, worship spaces, and places of service because the campus is maintained and accessible.

A NEW GIFT IS DISCOVERED

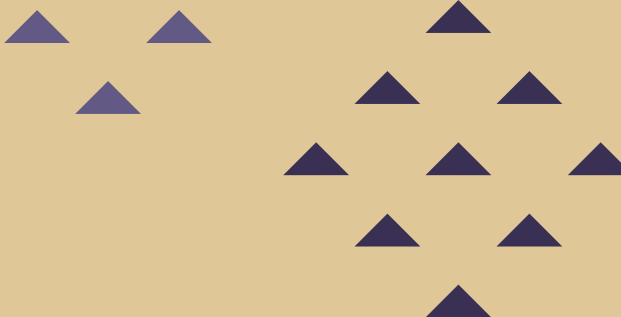
A singer, teacher, carpenter, cook, organizer, student, gardener, or quiet listener finds a place where their gifts can bless others.

Our Mission

*To be the church God is calling us
to be by declaring God's love,
serving others, and embracing all.*

The Stewardship Question

*What has God placed into our
hands and how will we use it for
the sake of our neighbors?*



GIVING IN GRACE

Take One Faithful STEP

➤ Christian giving is not church dues and it does not purchase God's favor. Grace is free. Our giving is a response of trust and gratitude - one way we practice love of God and neighbor with the resources entrusted to us.

BEGIN - I have not been giving intentionally, and I will begin.

MAKE IT REGULAR - I will establish a weekly or monthly pattern of giving.

GROW - I will increase my present giving as I am able.

GIVE PROPORTIONALLY - I will identify what percentage of income I give and prayerfully consider the next step.

TITHE - I will begin or continue the spiritual discipline of giving 10%.

SUSTAIN - My circumstances make maintaining my present commitment the faithful step for this season.

No comparison. No shame.

A faithful step will look different from household to household. A change in employment, health, caregiving, or family circumstances may change what is possible. Commitments can be adjusted at any time.

Consider Recurring Giving

Weekly or monthly recurring gifts can help households practice intentional generosity while helping Emanuel's plan ministry with greater consistency.

A PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Generous God, free me from fear and comparison. Help me receive your gifts with gratitude, use them with wisdom, and share them with joy for the sake of my neighbor. Amen.

SERVING IN GRACE

Your Gifts Have a PLACE

➤ The church does not simply need people to fill empty slots. The church is a body in which the Spirit gives different gifts for the common good. Our task is to recognize those gifts, make room for them, and put them to work in love.

WORSHIP, MUSIC & THE ARTS: choir, hand bells, instruments, lector, usher, altar guild, worship planning, communion assistant, assisting minister, volunteer training

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FORMATION: children's church, confirmation, day school, nursery, Compass Cooperative, adult learning, family events, summer programming, retreats

CARE & CONNECTION: home visits, prayer ministry, cards, meals, transportation, grief support, senior ministries, lay pastoral care, caregiver support, care facility worship

HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP: greeters, event meals, receptions, setup, welcome, event hosting, couples & friends nights, Senior Social Club, congregational celebrations

MISSION & OUTREACH: Eggapalooza, community events, food ministry, school partnerships, service projects, ELCA mission support, symposiums, Garden of Eatn'

DIGITAL & COMMUNICATIONS: livestream, sound, projection, photography, social media, online hospitality, broadcasting ministry, website, graphic design

PROPERTY & CREATION CARE: gardening, repairs, skilled trades, organizing, facility projects, utilities, insurance, custodial work, creation care, sustainability

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION: Council, finance, teaching, strategic planning, grants, office help, ministry teams, pastoral compensation, staff compensation, stewardship

What can you do that Emanuel's may not know about?

Your gift may not fit an existing committee or ministry. Great! Tell us about it. God may be calling Emanuel's into a ministry we have not imagined yet.

Serve in a way that fits your season!

Weekly | Monthly | Seasonal | Several times a year | One-time project | Behind the scenes | From home | As needed

Our Promise

Every person who asks to explore a ministry will receive a personal follow-up. Serving begins with conversation and discernment, not pressure.

CALLED. GIFTED. SERVING. SENT.

Four Weeks of **GROWING IN GRACE**

WEEK 1, September 20 - CALLED | Ephesians 2:4-10

Stewardship begins with what God has already given.

WEEK 2, September 27 - GIFTED | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Prayerfully consider one faithful next step in generosity.

WEEK 3, October 4 - SERVING | 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

Discern the gifts God has placed in you and among us.

WEEK 4, October 18 - SENT | Matthew 5:13-16

Offer Giving in Grace and Serving in Grace commitments.

WE GIVE BECAUSE GRACE HAS CHANGED US.

WE SERVE BECAUSE GOD HAS CALLED US.

TOGETHER, OUR GIFTS BECOME MINISTRY.

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's grace is the beginning. Our lives are the response.

Together, we are Growing in Grace.

