Grace Lutheran Church

10 BY 10
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Brothers and Sisters--

I am grateful to God that I am a part of a congregation of generous givers.
So, knowing how the Spirit of God is at work among us, I want to offer you a challenge.

Next week, on October 26th, our entire Grace family will be asked to take a concrete step toward growing in generosity. Over the next ten weeks, we will celebrate *`10x10—Building a Foundation of Generosity.* Our goal is for each household and/or member to increase their gifts to Grace's shared ministry **by 10 percent.** So, for example, if you or your family give 50 dollars weekly, then for November and December increase your gift to 55 dollars weekly.

I ask you to prayerfully participate in our *10x10—Building a Foundation of Generosity* for three reasons:

1) As we've already heard over the past two Sundays, generosity is a habit, and habits that are nurtured and sustained grow. As followers of Jesus, we are committed to modeling our lives after his, and generosity is a part of who our Lord Jesus is and what He does.

2) Committing to being financially generous means being accountable with the money God entrusts to us. To sit down, pencil in hand, and think seriously about the best ways we can glorify our God with the resources he provides us means asking if there are misplaced priorities in our spending. Generosity is not only about giving to God *right now*; it is also about being faithful and honest about our current needs and about planning for future opportunities so we can discover how God cares for us at every stage of life.

3) We cannot be generous with what we do not have. In the same way that an inactive person cannot jump from the couch and run a race, so we cannot neglect the habit of generosity and yet expect to be ready when our Lord comes to us under the need of a neighbor. We want to be ready when and where the opportunity to glorify God and bless our neighbors appears.

And, I am excited to say, there are opportunities on the way in 2026 for us to bless our neighbors! We are excited about next season's Farmers Market; we are planning new ministries for young adults, families with children, and short-term mission trips; we want to strengthen our current care for homebound members and guests of our Grace House apartment. What is more, we want to expand our reach to others by improving our audio-visual and recording capabilities to provide classes for the Web.

But, as you know, to build a house, there must be a strong, sturdy foundation.

In short: *10 by 10* is going to encourage each of us to be prayerful, thoughtful, and intentional in our giving. The generosity of God the Father will enable it! The grace of God the Son will empower it! The gifts of God the Holy Spirit will inspire it!

Whatever your prayerful decision is regarding *10 by 10*, know that our parish leaders, Deaconess Anna and I pray with thanksgiving for you. **This is your ministry.** God has given his gifts to you. You and you alone can make a prayerful plan on how you intend to put them to work to God's glory and your neighbor's good. *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).*

May the joy of giving increase and overflow in our Grace family this fall! May the blessings of Jesus be yours in abundance today, tomorrow, and forever!

In Christ,



Pastor Dave Brooks