

BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

We have never experienced a year like the one in which we are currently living . In-person worship and other gatherings canceled, learning to provide worship and other experiences online, and caring for one another from a distance, just to name a few. At the same time, God has very clearly been active in our life together. Here are just a few of the ways which you have shared with us:

- 2020 has been a trying time for our church family. The pandemic has severely disrupted everyone's lives. We really missed seeing our friends at the Sunday service and then gathering for fellowship afterward. However, we were delighted when the Church began with parking lot outdoor services that allowed for us to attend and feel that we were part of the Church community again. Then the further enhancement of expanding the outdoor service with the options of in person and zoom added to the joy we felt knowing that our congregation was doing all they could to accommodate everyone in a safe manner.

Marty and Lynn Vogel
- As an auto caravan of our church family paraded by our home, we stood beside a huge banner displaying the only surviving photo of our wedding in 1950. We felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for our church family, being blessed by forty- five of those seventy years worshipping with those now separated by social distancing. In creative ways, by FM radio in the parking lot, the Confirmation of our Youth with a Lawn reception, and Zoom Bible study, our church has provided fellowship and togetherness. The surprise honor of our church family celebrating our 70th Wedding Anniversary, August 4th, 1950, will be for us, a never to be forgotten event.

Gene and Margaret Rinkel
- Beth Loy has helped out in the kitchen of LCM but is not a member of any church. Recently her cancer has progressed to the point that getting in and out of her house was near impossible. After a couple of emails and an announcement on a Sunday, that same afternoon our LCM family had not only donated enough to purchase the supplies, but came together and built a ramp that afternoon!! What a way to show God's love to someone that until recently, had never felt that before.

Theresa Edmonds
- During the pandemic while times were tough, our amazing church voted to continue to pay the staff. This was so appreciated by Tim and I! It allowed me to be at home with my kids, work flexible hours from home, and still be paid. God works through each one of you to reach people like me! Thank you so much to our wonderful church family!

Abbey Scott
- Everyone knows how stressful 2020 has been. Our church family is very special to us, and we enjoy supporting our church any way we can. This year we felt called to give a little extra, financially, when we received our stimulus check. We decided to share part of our stimulus check, because Pete was deemed essential and has not missed a day of work since the shutdown. Jennifer's day care was affected for a short time but is back up to speed. So since we were blessed to keep our incomes relatively on track, we thought it only right to share it with our church community and Give it Back to God. We pray that it helps to continue the mission of Lutheran Church of Mahomet.

Pete and Jennifer Farm

What a beautiful community we are part of! God is certainly active here and we look forward to how we can help keep this ministry vibrant in the coming year.

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SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead we should as Christians seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.

