

Stewardship corner

This Month: "Ask, Thank, Tell"

2 Corinthians 9:7-8: *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything you may share abundantly in every good work.*

Ask, thank, tell: These are three important elements when seeking donations from others to support a specific cause. For the 2016 budget year, we asked and you gave \$1,219,820. **Thank you!** Your steady support was very important while our church navigated some important personnel transitions over the past several years. Now we are ready to let the "Telling" begin.

With a charge from the Congregation and after widespread, meticulous and time-consuming search efforts, we've assembled a stellar ministry team to lead and partner with the Immanuel family as we step out together to embody God's love in the world. We are truly ready to be an even better "Church that Serves." That deserves a WOW!!!

We are already enjoying the benefits of having the new team in place. On Sunday mornings the narthex steps are filled with young disciples engaged with Pastor Susan Graceson, who has invited many members of the congregation to share their talents and experiences with the Children's Ministry program.

With the arrival of Pastor Katie Strednak Singer we have another source of inspired preaching and pastoral care partner with Aaron. Katie is also bringing her experience and ideas into areas such as Community Service & Action, International Mission, Membership integration, Young Adult ministry, Spirituality & Learning, and Stewardship.

Under Billy Klutz's leadership and pastoral guidance, the *Immanuel in the Evening* service offers a more intimate and contemporary worship experiences to Immanuel. Doug Mar's work with our Youth Ministry provides engaging opportunities for Junior/Senior High students to experience fellowship, spiritual growth and service to others.

The worship of God through music is flourishing under the incomparable direction of Brian Wilhour and volunteer participation that includes several multi-generation families. The Children's Music Program has a new young leader, Sarah Sherman, who, with the mentoring of Brian, will provide a wonderful opportunity for children express their faith and joy through song.

Stories of our church's impact abound. They may begin within the walls of the Immanuel campus but often extend well beyond -- stories of nurturing one another and stories of reaching out to others beyond our own family of faith. You have helped to write those stories that change lives. Thank you for your continuing investment in the ministries that energize our mission to embody God's love in the world. Your gifts of time, talent, treasure and influence have brought us to this moment.

On **Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 13th**, we will come forward once again to secure the foundation of all the ministries that embody our mission. The potential for growth, the possibilities for the future are here and now. We have the opportunity to live even more fully into being a "church that serves".

It truly "all starts here" and it all starts with YOU!



Here's a frequently asked question: Why is it important that I pledge rather than just continue to put money in the donation plate every Sunday?

Answer: All donations are appreciated; however, pledges are important to permit Immanuel to manage its budget each year. To keep this in balance, IPC uses pledges for estimating revenue. With greater contributions, we can add programs, staff or services for our members and the community. If pledges are less, we may be forced to reduce programs, staff or services, or defer building and ground maintenance.

Please reach out to Stewardship Committee members with your questions and suggestions or your desire to join. Our contact information is as follows:

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