



Living Word United Methodist Church

“On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy.” - Nehemiah 12:43a

October 12, 2009

Dear Living Word Family,

The season of giving thanks is upon us. It is time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the coming year. Living Word United Methodist Church is getting ready to kick off the “Will You Grow?” stewardship campaign. We urge you to plan on attending one of the three worship services on Sunday, October 25, 2009, for Commitment Sunday.

“Will You Grow?” began as a biblical, spiritual, inspirational program that was designed to enrich our understanding of Christian stewardship. The program places an emphasis on each of us taking the time to look at our blessings in life, consider how we can help others who are less fortunate, and prayerfully reflect on our level of giving, both from a money aspect as well as a service aspect, for the upcoming year. We are asking each person to consider a personal, proportional commitment to the ministries of Living Word. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your decision as you prayerfully consider your commitment to “Will You Grow?” What is God calling you to do?

Scripture tells us that offerings mean nothing if they are not given with pleasure. Consider the blessing God has bestowed on you and cheerfully give to Him with thanksgiving. We know that many of us have endured hardships this past year, but we would venture to say that if you look deep, most of those hardships have led to greater blessings. Personally, our family has endured much adversity in 2010. Most of our difficulties have been health related...quite honestly, more than we pray anyone should endure in a lifetime. As owners of a small business, we understand the economic hardship that most are feeling this year as well. In this world where the economy is soft and everyone is experiencing uncertain times, we need to remember that God is bigger than the economy! We have found that on our journey, God has blessed us in many ways, even through the trying times. We find it no coincidence that once we “stepped it up” by tithing, our relationship with God became more intimate---which is absolutely priceless to our family. God has proven that He will be there for us...will we be there for Him? Will we give our relationship with God the same priority that we give to work, family, friends, school and sporting events?

Please take the first step by attending Commitment Sunday on October 25th and returning the Estimate of Giving Card. Imagine what all of us could do for God if we chose to listen to Him and grew a little more this year. Sometimes giving may feel like a hardship, but personally, we can say there is no greater hardship than life without God---and there is no full relationship, with God, without giving. Please prayerfully consider answering God’s call. Only you can hear what God is calling you to do. Let’s all be still and listen to Him.

“And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” 2 Corinthians 8:10-12

Yours in Christ,

Chuck & Susan Wintermute
“Will You Grow?” Co-chairs