

***“You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain: Then you shall keep the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God, contributing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing that you have received from the Lord your God.”***  
**Deuteronomy 16: 9-10**

November 7, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Stewardship Emphasis is off to a wonderful start. Last Sunday we heard an update from the founding pastor of the Church of the Damascus Road, Carroll Lang. Pastor Lang was accompanied by his wife, Judy, and Topher, who is a former inmate of both the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City Correctional Institutions. Topher shared with us the lasting impact the Church of the Damascus Road has had on his life and how crucial his faith is to him as he builds a new life in society.

The Church of the Damascus Road is one of the ministries beyond our walls that is supported through your freewill offerings at Zion St. John. This coming Sunday we will hear from Alice Greimann about the ministries of the Women of the ELCA and also about the work of our Legacy/Memorial Fund Committee. On Sunday, November 18, we will hear from some of our youth as they describe how our youth and education ministries are impacting their lives.

I pray that you will take time to reflect on the many ways God has blessed every one of us this past year. As you reflect on those many blessings, please also remember the many ways the varied ministries of Zion St. John, by being the body of Christ, has blessed the people in our community, our region and our world. How will you respond after reflecting on these blessings?

During worship on Sunday, November 18, we will collect the estimate of giving cards that are included in this mailing. I ask that you prayerfully consider filling it out and turning it back in to church on that Sunday. You may also drop it off at the church office or return it to us in the mail.

On the back of the card is a handy chart that will help you calculate the amount you plan on giving if you choose to do so based on a percentage of your income. We, the members of the Stewardship Committee, are asking people to consider increasing the amount they give this year by 1% of their annual income.

Blessed to be a blessing as we serve,

Doug Dohlman, Darwin Meyer, G Kim Wills