

Lord Jesus,

teach us to be generous.



September 2018

Dear Calvary Community,

The Prayer of Generosity begins with "Lord Jesus, teach us to be generous." Written by St. Ignatius almost 500 years ago, this prayer is still needed today. As part of our *Year of Prayer*, and fall financial stewardship season, we pray together and consider how to be generous with all God has given to us.

Each fall, we reflect on the meaning of stewardship. A steward is a most-trusted and highly valued caretaker. As God's stewards, we are entrusted and expected to care for God's people; to care for their physical needs, and for their spiritual lives. We serve as God's stewards with a generous heart through our worship, our service, our prayers, and our gifts.

Your financial generosity provides so much to Calvary, including worship services, Sunday School, Confirmation, pastoral staff, music staff, facilities and much more. Your generous giving also feeds the hungry, provides shelter, sends disaster relief across the globe, supports those in need in our own community, and shares God's message of mercy and grace to a hurting world. The people of Calvary are a very generous congregation!

Enclosed, please find a bookmark with St. Ignatius' *Prayer of Generosity*. Keep this prayer in your Bible or a book you read, and we invite you to pray this prayer daily throughout our stewardship season. Generosity is a learned behavior, and we ask God to teach us to be generous, as God was generous in sending Jesus to die for our sins.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to God's work through Calvary's ministries. On the back of this letter is a Financial Commitment Form for your 2019 pledge. We will bring our pledges and offerings to the altar on Sunday, October 28, Stewardship Commitment Sunday. You may also return this form in the offering plate, or the church office.

Also, as you may know, Pastor Earl is retiring after many years of faithful service. Some may choose to honor Pr. Earl with an additional financial gift to Calvary. There is an opportunity on the pledge form to make an additional one-time pledge, or a three-year pledge, to our air conditioning and capital improvements fund in Pr. Earl's honor.

Lord Jesus, teach us to be generous.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Paulsen", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kent Paulsen, Stewardship Coordinator

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2019 Financial Commitment Form (Estimate of Giving)
in support of the annual Operating Fund of Calvary Lutheran Church

Name: _____

I/we support God's work through Calvary by making the following estimate of giving (please select one):

- I/we commit to giving \$_____ per week OR \$_____ per month OR \$_____ per year
- I/we commit to Calvary financially but prefer not to make a specific pledge at this time.

The above selection should take effect: 1/1/2019 OR _____ (please indicate effective date)

In honor of Pr. Earl's service to Calvary, I/we would like to make an additional offering of a (please select one):

- One time offering of \$_____ OR 3-year pledge of \$_____ to the Air Conditioning/Capital Improvements Fund.

Please return this form on/before Sunday, October 28, 2018. Thank you.

Signature: _____

This commitment, offered in faith, may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances.