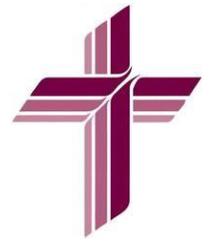




# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

505 E. Carpenter Street  
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sjlmidland.org



Pastor Daniel Kempin

Pastor Joshua Parsons

February 25, 2019

Dear Co-workers in the Kingdom

I read a story on the internet about a wealthy man in an expensive car with a flat tire on the side of the road. A stranger pulled over to check on him, and when he saw that the rich man was dressed up in an expensive suit, he offered to change the tire for him. The man accepted, and after the tire was changed offered to pay him. "No," said the man. "Maybe just send my wife some flowers, since she has been waiting in the car." True to his word, the man did send flowers--and a note saying that the balance of their mortgage had also been paid.

Of course I don't know to what degree that story is true, (the internet being what it is), but even if it is only a legend, it illustrates an important point: The truly wealthy will not allow themselves to be outdone in generosity.

And while this may not be true of all earthly millionaires, it is certainly true of God. He has made it clear that any gift we give to Him will be answered with even greater generosity. That is the meaning of the proverb: "*Whoever gives to the poor, lends to the Lord*" (Pr. 19:17) The principle is inherent that giving is not just something we should do because it is an obligation, but rather giving is something that GOD HIMSELF will reward.

This is indeed the "Art of Abundance," finding joy in making the lives of others richer, because we have a deep confidence that God will continue to pour abundance back to us.

Please do not think I am speaking only about money. As the story illustrates, we make the lives of others richer by giving of ourselves, serving willingly, showing kindness, and sharing the love of God. God has given you unique ways to make those around you better off. The monetary giving you do is only one facet of the abundance you have in the Lord.

So as you participate in our stewardship effort this year, I encourage you to consider the unique ways that the Lord has gifted you and given you the ability to contribute. Let your lifestyle of abundance, whether here at St. John's or elsewhere, be an intentional effort to learn what the Lord would teach.

Enclosed, please find a pledge card to express your intended support for St. John's ministry. Please take a moment to complete the card and bring it with to Church on Sunday, March 3, but remember to pray for the Lord's guidance and for His blessing on your offering. .

If you know that you will not be able to attend on Sunday, you can drop your pledge card by the church during office hours. You may also enter a pledge electronically through our website if that is your preference. (sjlmidland.org)

Please look up and read Malachi 3:6-10 as you consider this. May God bless your decision for the work of His kingdom at St. John's Lutheran.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan Kempin