



## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

505 E. Carpenter Street  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989) 835-5861  
sjlmidland.org



---

Pastor Daniel Kempin

Pastor Josh Parsons

February 2, 2026

Dear Co-workers in the Kingdom,

There is an old story about a little girl whose prize possession was a toy pearl necklace. Perhaps she wanted to emulate the women she saw dressed up for Church, or maybe she just liked the way they looked, but whatever the case, the little girl wore the toy pearls everywhere, even to bed, until they started to look pretty shoddy.

One night her father came to her room at bedtime and asked, "Sweetheart, do you love me?" "Yes, Daddy!" She said.

"Can I have your pearls?" he asked.

"Oh, Daddy . . . you can have my Teddy bear. How about that?"

"It's Okay," her father said, kissing her cheek. "Just remember I love you."

This happened several nights, and each time the little girl offered her father something else—something precious, but not as dear as her toy pearl necklace. Finally, one night her father came to tuck her in and saw her in bed with tears in her eyes and her necklace in her hand. "I'm sorry, Daddy," she said. "I DO love you. You can have my pearls."

Her father smiled and took them. Then he reached in his pocket and pulled out a velvet case—a proper jewelry case—and opened it to show her a beautiful and genuine pearl necklace. "I know how much you love pearls, dear, and I was waiting for you to give up your toy pearls so I could give you the real thing."

That story is a poignant reminder of two important Biblical truths. The first is the principle taught by Jesus: "He who is faithful in little, is also faithful in much." (Lk. 16:10) God gives in proportion and response to the faith of His people. How can we expect God to entrust us with big things if we have not learned to trust Him in small things?

The second truth is related to this is trust: We have a really generous Father. Our God is not hesitant, nor does he find it difficult to give big things. In fact, our Father delights to give to those who trust in Him.

This Sunday we begin our annual Stewardship campaign. This is time we set aside every year to listen and learn what our Lord teaches about money, giving, and the vital relationship they have to faith. We will hear messages from the Scriptures on this topic, and on the following Sunday (Feb. 15) we will provide the chance to pledge your intended support to St. John's in the coming year.

The purpose of the stewardship campaign is not to raise funds, but to encourage you to grow in your faith relationship with Jesus, and understand what He says about money and giving. Whether or not you participate in pledging to St. John's, I invite you to consider the wisdom of what the Scripture teaches about our relationship to our Heavenly Father. Consider especially the parable and teachings found in **Luke 16:1-15**.

Talk to you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pastor Kempin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

-Pastor Kempin