



# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Pastor Daniel Kempin

Pastor Josh Parsons

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Dear Co-workers in the Kingdom,

Last year I came across an old poem. It tells the story of a man who had just bought his wife an expensive coat for Christmas, when a young boy approached him in the store. The boy asked about the coat and said that he wanted to buy one like it for his mother. He went on to explain that he had been working and saving, and had brought all of his money: a dollar and a dime.

Touched by the boy's love for his mother, the man winked at the clerk and told the boy that a dollar and a dime was the exact cost of the coat. The clerk wrapped it up and sent the boy on his way.

Years later, the same man learned that his wife was going blind. The doctor they consulted said that there was a surgery that could correct it, but of course the man knew that a surgery was likely more than he could afford. "How much will that cost?" he asked tentatively. The doctor gave him an odd look and then smiled. He replied,

"I'll see she gets the best of care—she's going to be just fine.  
And the total cost to you, old friend, is a dollar and a dime."

Only then did the man recognize that the doctor was the same little boy, now grown and successful. And not only was he a professional success, but he had also grown into a man who took to heart the childhood lesson he had received about the power of giving.

It is a reminder that when our Lord speaks to us of giving, it is a profound lesson that goes to the heart of His love for us. There is a connection between giving and receiving, between blessing and being blessed. Notice the connections in the following statement of Jesus:

**"Do not judge, and you will not be judged  
Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned  
Forgive, and you will be forgiven  
Give, and it will be given to you  
A good measure poured into your lap, pressed, shaken, and overflowing  
For by the measure you use, it will be measured to you."** (Lk. 6:37-38)

I'm sure it does not escape your attention that this teaching is about far more than giving. It goes to the heart of our relationship toward others, which in turn is connected to our relationship with our Lord. It is not just about giving . . . but without giving it cannot be understood. .

In that spirit, I invite you to take this teaching of Jesus to heart so that YOU may be blessed. A generous spirit, whether you are giving, forgiving, or reserving judgment, will find a generous return from the Father who wants above all else for you to trust Him.

Enclosed please find a pledge card for your intended support of St. John's in the coming year. Just to review, please remember that supporting St. John's is not a requirement, nor is it required to submit a pledge card. Any pledges submitted are strictly confidential and only used for the purpose of planning the upcoming budget. If you do choose to submit a pledge card, please take time to pray, and strive to give whatever you may give joyfully and in faith.

If you are not able to be in worship this Sunday, you can drop off a pledge card any time in the next few weeks, or you can submit it electronically through the website. Extra cards and envelopes are available at the church.

As you reflect on your own stewardship in the coming year, please reflect on **Colossians 1:9-10** and **Romans 13:8**.

Your partner in ministry,

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

-Pastor Kempin

Enclosure: Pledge Card with envelope