

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**An inviting, supporting community, reflecting
God's love and care for all God's creation.**

October 2015

Last month I wrote, "What is Christian Stewardship About." As the time for planning for a new year is approaching we need to begin thinking about

"Why do we pledge"

We often give as a reason to pledge that it is necessary for the Vestry to have an idea of the income that the church will receive in the future in order to budget realistically and control expenditures. That's a good idea, but another thing to consider is what does pledging do for me, the giver. My mentors in teaching stewardship – the care for God's creation and sharing of the gifts we receive as a result of God's love for us – all agree that one of the important foundations of stewardship is that our giving should be intentional. That is, we should think and pray and then decide what we intend to give to our church and to other faith based charities in a future period.

Thoughtful pledging considers our family's financial situation and the importance of God and our church in our lives. On the foundation of our pledge, we build a pattern of regular giving – weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. – and feel comfortable at the offering that we are giving to God as we have intended.

The opposite, not planning and pledging, means that at each offering we are looking into our pocketbook and deciding how does my gift at that moment effect my family's financial situation and does it reflect our need to share God's gifts and support our church.

Pledge cards for 2016 will be mailed to each family in late November, and we ask that they be returned and blessed at the services by December 6. Please begin thinking and praying about your pledge for 2016, and check this site for more information in about two weeks.

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