

## Should I use Electronic Funds Transfer?

Electronic Funds Transfer / Automatic Bank Giving (EFT) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church.

With EFT, you can reinforce your commitment to give your tithes and offerings to God first, before anything else.

One easy step each year guarantees that the church will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are out of town or you forget one week. And on a practical note, EFT reduces the need for additional staff to process offerings.

If you choose this option, you must return an estimate of giving card each year authorizing the electronic funds transfer.

Complete the EFT information and attach a voided check for the account you will use. For more information contact Al Zimmerman at 661-942-5105

## GIVING TO GOD AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

“Our growth in giving of our time and talents has grown in parallel with our faith walk and our involvement at church.

We have become passionate about growing our biblical knowledge and to be a lighthouse to our children, friends, and people we don’t know, but are recipients of our generosity.

God is first in our lives and we want to model our behavior after what the Bible teaches.”  
—Mike F.

### *To whom much has been given . . .*

*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

—Luke 12:48

## GIVING TO GOD AND SPIRITUAL ASSURANCE!

“Generosity with my tithes and offerings has deepened my relationship with the Lord and God has become more personable.

I feel God has challenged me to help others more. He is my partner and my rock.

Being a single parent comes with many challenges and one of those is money frustrations. My thinking has come full circle now from what do I give up to tithe properly to how much more can I give to the Lord to honor His kingdom.

With this thinking I feel no loss and no sense of living without. It has been an awesome experience.”  
-Vicki R.

## Scriptures tell us to share our gifts

*“Command those who are rich in this world... to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

*In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” — Paul’s 1st Letter to Timothy*

### For more information contact:

Connie McDougall, Financial Secretary

661-609-7817

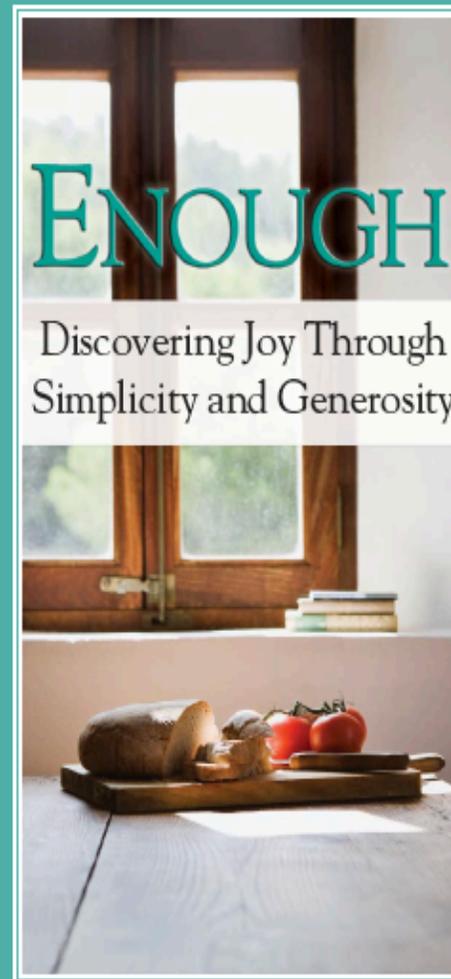
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## Lancaster United Methodist Church

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STEWARDSHIP  
GIVING GUIDE

# Giving Guide

This year we invite you to celebrate the joy of generosity as you offer your estimate of giving card for Year Jul 2019-Jun 2020.

We encourage you to find greater contentment and simplicity as you put God first in your giving and living and to experience the joy that comes from knowing our gifts honor God and change lives.

Our challenge as members is to find ways to grow deeper in our faith. One way to do this is to offer our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings.

Through these gifts, we invest in God's vision and purpose and create an opportunity for God to work through us. Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship; and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives, transform communities, and renew mainline churches.

## Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources.

Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

## What is expected of me?

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10 percent of what we earn, to God and the church's work.

For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10%.

The important thing is that you start

somewhere, that your giving be in proportion to your income (a percentage), that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and to invest in God's work.

Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are giving to God.

If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3% of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4%, and add 1 percent each year until you reach the tithing goal.

**Our prayer is that everyone will grow in faith through giving financially to the ministries of the church and experience the joy and blessings that come from financial generosity.**

### *Everything we have belongs to God.*

*"A tithe [tenth] of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." —Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)*

## Why do I need to return an Estimate of Giving card?

There are two reasons why it is important that every member of our church family return an estimate of giving card.

**First**, the process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to serve the Lord with your financial gifts is an act of worship, an

### GIVING TO GOD AND SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS!

"Each year our family has prayerfully committed both tithe and special offerings. It is very apparent to us that our financial support to the Church and its ministries has resulted in countless blessings." —Dr. Terry H.

expression of gratitude and praise to God.

**Second**, on a more practical note, your commitment allows our church to budget and better plan for our ministries, key objectives, and mission outreach programs.

## What if financial hardship prohibits me from making a commitment this year?

Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from worship.

Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at Lancaster UMC is not based upon your capacity to give.

We ask that everyone return an Estimate of Giving card even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always change your commitment by calling the church.

Also, be sure to let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you during any difficulty.

We also offer classes and insight to assist members to become better managers of all that God gives them. For info., call our church office 661-942-0419 /email lumc@lancasterunited.org.

### *Because we reap what we sow.*

*"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." —2 Corinthians 9:6*

## Why do I need to turn in a new commitment card each year?

Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that giving growth. Each year, our church budget is based upon the growing commitments of our congregation.