

Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Generosity

You may hear the phrase “*Not equal gifts, but equal generosity*” used in our ***Invest in the Promise*** Capital Campaign, but what does this mean? The first part of the phrase means that there will be various dollar amounts dedicated through our campaign; however, no comparisons will be made among what each of us is willing to give for our church. But what about “generosity”? Truly generous giving is the act of making sacred or setting apart our financial resources for God. It means to dedicate that which is precious to us for that which we value deeply—the future of our congregation and its ministries.

The Scriptures make it clear that God measures our gifts not in relationship to others, but in relationship to the degree of individual generosity based on how one has been blessed. St. Paul said, “*For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has.*” (2 Corinthians 8:12). And Jesus said, “*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.*” (Luke 12:48).

As a church, we are called to pray in these crucial weeks of stewardship emphasis. Each of us must seek God’s guiding, confident that God will lead us in discerning how we can give. As you make your commitments to our ***Invest in the Promise*** Campaign, give thanks, for, as Paul said, “*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God!*” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

You may use the chart below to easily calculate the total of a certain gift over a 3-year period. We see how a small sacrifice over a period of time results in a large contribution.

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>3-Year Total</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>3-Year Total</u>
\$500	\$78,000	\$1,500	\$54,000
\$400	\$62,400	\$1,200	\$42,200
\$300	\$46,800	\$1,000	\$36,000
\$200	\$31,200	\$800	\$28,800
\$150	\$23,400	\$600	\$21,600
\$125	\$19,500	\$500	\$18,000
\$100	\$15,600	\$400	\$14,400
\$90	\$14,040	\$360	\$12,960
\$80	\$12,480	\$320	\$11,520
\$70	\$10,920	\$280	\$10,080
\$60	\$9,360	\$240	\$8,640
\$50	\$7,800	\$200	\$7,200
\$45	\$7,020	\$180	\$6,480
\$40	\$6,240	\$160	\$5,760
\$35	\$5,460	\$140	\$5,040
\$30	\$4,680	\$120	\$4,320
\$25	\$3,900	\$100	\$3,600
\$20	\$3,120	\$80	\$2,880
\$15	\$2,340	\$60	\$2,160
\$10	\$1,560	\$40	\$1,440
\$5	\$780	\$20	\$720
\$3	\$468	\$10	\$360