



St. James Lutheran Church

God's work. Our hands.

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Here at St. James Lutheran Church, God has blessed us with the joy of The Gospel through children and young people. God calls us to engage our children and youth so that we might learn from one another, and share faith with one another. We not only say we care about young people, we show we care through all of the opportunities we offer. We're investing in children.

Our youth have opportunity to be engaged in Bible Study and prayer, in finding ways to serve others in their community, and in searching for ways to follow Jesus Christ in their lives. The expanded support for summer camp ministry opportunities for children has been so well received by families.

There is so much more to do, so many more challenges to embrace, as together we build our Youth & Children Ministry. Among those challenges in 2017 will be encouraging more of our children and youth to attend summer camp, developing a quarterly children's fellowship time, increasing our support for middle and senior high youth programming, recruiting more adult leadership for youth ministry, helping our children learn and remember more of the stories of God and God's people, preparing a group of youth and adults for the 2018 National Gathering,

and increasing our outreach to youth in the community. Children who don't have a home church, children who have never heard of Jesus and his love, and children of our community who can easily get lost in the crowd - these are our children, too. And God calls us to reach out to them.

Youth ministry is a ministry by The Church, of our congregation, and with our young people. The call to discipleship ... to reach out with the Gospel ... to be stewards ... is a call to our young people, too. A call God gives us all - now, in this time, and in this place.

May we covenant together to provide the financial resources needed to make our youth ministry vibrant and effective? One focus of God's Gifts 2107 Stewardship Appeal is to gather enough increased offerings to fully fund an expanded Youth & Children's Ministry.

The goal of God's Gifts 2017 Stewardship Appeal is to increase gifts and offerings by \$43,000 beyond projected 2016 general fund gifts and offerings. We ask each person to pray for a generous congregational response, and to prayerfully consider increasing our own gifts for the coming year. With everyone helping, we'll not only say we care about children - we'll keep on investing in them.

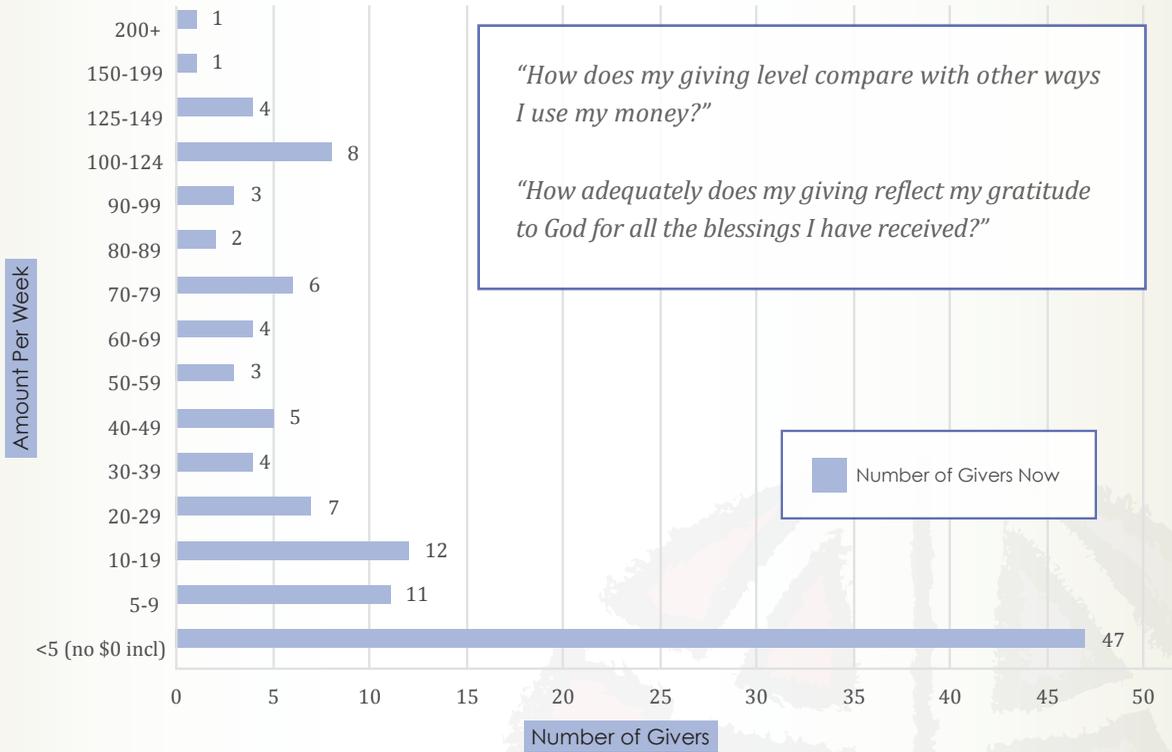
GOD'S GIFTS 2017

Our gifts and offerings, joined together and blessed with God's Spirit, accomplish ministry in many and varied ways.

Below is a chart which gives a picture of our current giving. As you read this gift chart and find the various levels of current offerings, ask yourself these questions:

"How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?"

"How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"



“God’s Gifts 2017” Stewardship Appeal

Goal: \$43,000 increases in offerings

- \$12,300 Worship and Music
- \$8,700 Christian Education
- \$1,000 Fellowship Ministry
- \$1,000 Social Ministry
- \$20,000 General Operations and other ministries of the Congregation