

HOW IS MY OFFERING USED?

Many times people ask this question. Here is my attempt to help you think about your gifts to Our Savior's. **First, there is the General Fund.** This is the fund that is used to pay our day-to-day expenses, our benevolences, staff salaries, and repairs. This fund is where we usually need your help. For 2011, we need just over \$10,000 dollars per Sunday to meet our budget. The only way this amount can be lowered is to cut our expenses. I believe, we have spent years cutting our expenses and there is not a lot left to cut. Each of us must give as we are blessed.

As I was healing from my surgery, I found an interesting quote: 'Jesus does not say a lot about the giving of money, but says a lot about the attitude.' I was struck by this quote and yet it is true. What is your attitude about giving? What does your heart tell you to give? Do you have passion for the work of this congregation or not? Your answers to these questions will fill the offering plate or leave it empty.

Second, there is Designated Giving Funds. These are funds that specifically have been given for a cause. We have an Organ Fund, Prayer Garden Fund, Sacristry Remodeling Fund, as well as a Parish Nurse Fund, Flag Pole Fund, Worship and Communion Fund and the Radio Fund to name a few. These are funds that have been set aside to be spent in those specific areas and not be spent for day-to-day operations. In my time here, I have worked closely with our treasurers to make sure that if you designate money, it goes to that fund. **Hopefully, these funds are above and beyond your normal giving otherwise the General Fund suffers.** For instance, last summer the General Fund suffered as we gathered funds to replace the air conditioning for the sanctuary.

Third, there are Mission Endowment Funds. Our Endowment Fund was started in 1987. The money in this fund is from larger gifts that families have given to Our Savior's. **Again, this money is not to be spent in the General Fund, but can be used for special projects as laid out in the bylaws of the Mission Endowment Fund.** Each year in January, the Mission Endowment Board reviews the amount of interest earned for the previous year. Then, they make allocations that can be used for special projects at Our Savior's. Interest allocations are made for Church Outreach, Community Outreach, World Outreach as well as Senior Ministry, Youth Ministry and Family Ministry. There is also an allocation for Choir Music and Capital Expenses. Last year in 2010, just over \$50,000 was used for special projects at Our Savior's that otherwise we could not afford.

These are the funding streams that keep this ministry alive and well. Hopefully, you also now understand how important your gifts to the General Fund are. We cannot make it without your weekly gifts!

Pastor Don