

## How Do I Give?

Luke 12:13-21 – The Parable of the Rich Fool  
*Greg Bohlken, Jan 19, 2025*

*We continue celebrating generosity. Today's question is how do I give? The answer: generously. It does no good to hoard our treasures, as this Parable of the Rich Fool warns.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter (**Glory to you, O Lord.**)

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But Jesus said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And Jesus said to all of them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then Jesus told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord (**Praise to you, O Christ.**)

Celebrate Generosity. Today we ask, How do I give? The answer: Generously and intentionally. Generously to say Thank You for all God has given us and intentionally as a demonstration of trust that God will continue to provide.

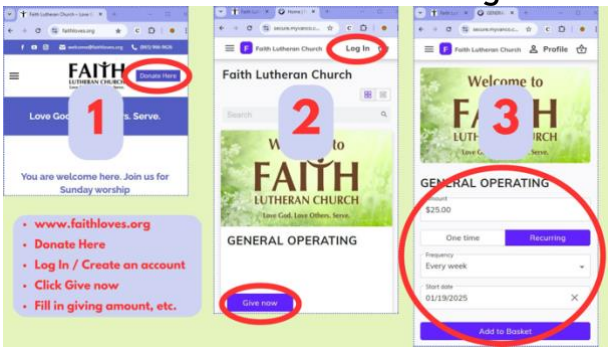
We want to be free of our dependence on material wealth. Jesus reminds us that accumulating stuff will never satisfy our life's longing – satisfaction only comes from a rich relationship with God.

I grew up watching my mom sit down every Saturday night to write an offering check for church. We were not wealthy. She was teaching us to trust God. Sandra and I are similarly deliberate – we align our priorities by using a budgeting app on our phones, then we go to the easy and secure online giving page at [faithloves.org](https://faithloves.org).

Let's get a visual refresher of online giving. If you can shop online, you can give online.

I have copies of these slides as handouts under the TV in the lobby if you'd like to take home the tutorial.

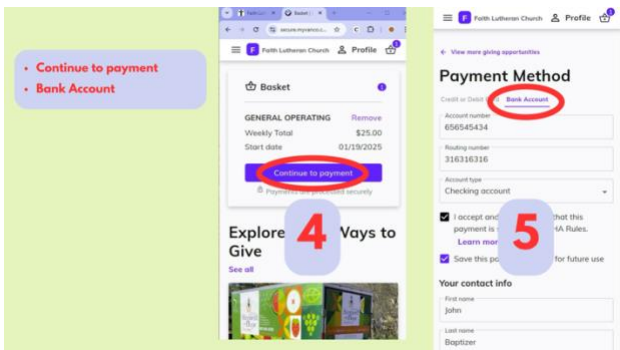
1. Open a webpage to [faithloves.org](https://faithloves.org)
2. Click Donate Here



3. Log in to the giving system (first time, create account with your email and make a password).

4. Click Give Now.

5. Fill in giving amount and recurring or one-time. Recurring means your gift to God's work continues even on Sundays when you're at the lake. Click add to basket.



Next. One gift in your basket, scroll down to choose to add a gift for Food Pantry, etc., and when ready click Continue to Payment.

Then on Payment Method we recommend Bank Account instead of Credit Card because your gift goes straight from your bank to Faith quickly with no additional fees. And, if you created a user account, you can choose to let the system remember your bank info so you don't have to re-enter it each time.

When you're ready to process your gift, does anybody know what the button says that you click? **SUBMIT**. To give online we push a submit button – even our online system knows that giving is an act of worshipfully submitting to God and finding freedom from the lie of greed & selfishness.

Today's Gospel challenges us to be as planned and intentional in our giving as we are in storing up treasures. If every year you've committed a certain percentage of your income to grow your retirement account, isn't God so much more worthy of a certain percentage of your resources to grow God's work in the world?

So that's why we pledge – to be intentional in our trust that God will continue to provide (hold up yellow pledge card). Bring your pledge cards to worship on February 2<sup>nd</sup> Generosity Celebration Sunday and submit your gift plan to God in worship.

A pastor friend of mine says, "I can think of no other group so well positioned to respond directly to the needs of the local community than your church." And as Darla Berdal reminded us last week, "I can only do so much by myself, but when I give at church with all of you, look at all that God can do through us together."

Giving to God is not just finances. We celebrate generosity by giving our time, talents, and treasure. Some of the ways that I have seen you celebrate generosity include serving at the Food Pantry, baking casseroles for KARM, collecting underwear

for Salvation Army. Mentoring young people. Teaching English. Greeting visitors at church. Shoveling your neighbor's snow. Baking for the Cookie Walk. Watching your friend's kids when she gets unexpectedly called into work. Playing handbells.

Giving your time and planning your financial gifts allows your family to prioritize what's important for you, and it allows us, together as the church, to intentionally Love God, Love Others, Serve. God is good! We celebrate!

And now, here's (Marj West / Cadence Titsworth) to share some of her life's experiences with celebrating generosity and how to give time, talents, and treasure.