

## A Living Sacrifice

10/26/2017 Andy Figueroa

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* Romans 12:1 (ESV)

THIS Sunday is the soft kick-off of our annual financial stewardship campaign. Herein, I outline what we do at Holy Trinity about financial stewardship. I will be writing about stewardship over the next few weeks, anchored in the verses above and below, that through our sacrifices this Christian outpost may thrive, rightly proclaiming and teaching the Word, delivering the sacraments, and nurturing an ever expanding family of God.

NEXT week, a box will be placed in the nave where you may deposit a small card with your 2018 estimated tithes and offerings. (You may be familiar with congregations that run “Pledge Campaigns.” We don't do that. The card you give us is intended to be a mere good faith estimate, seen and treated confidentially only by our treasurer. If you have questions about this, please ask me.) We set aside this time because it gives us a chance to teach and encourage concerning the stewardship of money. And, those little cards with your “good faith estimates” will make it possible for the Vestry to confidently prepare a meaningful and realistic budget for 2018.

This is all we do. It's over before Advent. If we don't have a card from you by Advent, we will mail one to you in a letter with a stamped envelope that you can mail back to the parish or place in the weekly offering. Over the last four years, Holy Trinity has made the annual stewardship campaign easier and more productive than we could hope for or imagine, and we are truly grateful.

For homework, please read Romans 12:1 and Hebrews 13:15-16, above and below. Contemplate and pray about what your living sacrifice looks like. God really does care what we do with our money, our things, our time. Our regular giving is Holy Trinity's household income, living sacrifices pleasing to God.

*Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.* Hebrews 13:15-16 (ESV)

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