

# The Bible Teaches Us **SMART GIVING**

**M**any people are confused about giving. Some of our confusion comes from trying to apply what the world teaches us about money and possessions to our Christian giving. But the Bible has a lot to say about giving:

## **Lesson 1 - Give FIRST**

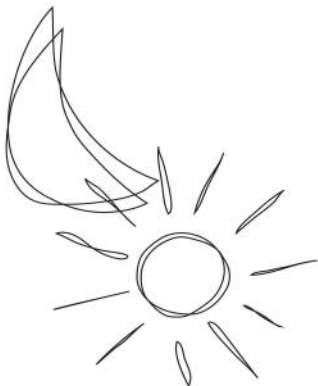
The Biblical concept of "first fruits giving" – giving off-the-top, not leftovers – can help us put our spoken priorities into practice. That's why the Bible instructs us to love and thank God by giving first...before the mortgage or rent, the car payment, even food. Giving first, whenever we receive income, is a sign of trust that is much more important than how much we give.



**Read Matthew 6:24-34**

## **Lesson 2 - Give REGULARLY**

The Bible teaches us that a commitment to regular giving is the responsibility of all Christians. We are reminded of this commitment when we practice and plan the discipline of regular giving – weekly, bi-monthly or monthly – whenever we receive income.



**Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

# SMART GIVING

## Lesson 3 - Give PROPORTIONATELY

There is no "right" amount for your regular offering, but there is a Biblical way to give. We are to give in proportion to what we receive.

The Biblical guideline is tithing (10%), but the percentage itself is less important than the commitment to give proportionately. If you're new to proportionate giving, start by committing any percentage of income you feel comfortable with, then try to grow toward and beyond 10%. Challenge yourself to grow in your giving by 1% of your income annually.



Read Luke 12:34

## GIVING GROWTH CHALLENGE WORKSHEET

A challenge for all of us in the North American Lutheran Church is to increase our giving through the congregation by 1% of our weekly income, and to consider similar growth at least annually, moving toward and even beyond a tithe (10%).

Individual or household weekly income: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Current weekly giving: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Use the chart below to find the percentage closest to your current giving: \_\_\_\_\_%

Consider growing by at least 1% - Enter new percentage here: \$\_\_\_\_\_%

Weekly Income:	Weekly Giving:						
	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	12%	15%
\$200	\$2	\$6	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$24	\$30
\$400	\$4	\$12	\$20	\$28	\$40	\$48	\$60
\$600	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$42	\$60	\$72	\$90
\$700	\$7	\$21	\$35	\$49	\$70	\$84	\$105
\$800	\$8	\$24	\$40	\$56	\$80	\$96	\$120
\$1,000	\$10	\$30	\$50	\$70	\$100	\$120	\$150
\$1,250	\$12 <sup>50</sup>	\$37 <sup>50</sup>	\$62 <sup>50</sup>	\$87 <sup>50</sup>	\$125	\$150	\$187 <sup>50</sup>
\$1,500	\$15	\$45	\$75	\$105	\$150	\$180	\$225
\$1,750	\$17 <sup>50</sup>	\$52 <sup>50</sup>	\$87 <sup>50</sup>	\$122 <sup>50</sup>	\$175	\$210	\$262 <sup>50</sup>
\$2,000	\$20	\$60	\$100	\$140	\$200	\$240	\$300

Use the chart again to determine your new weekly giving amount:  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

*(Enter this new dollar amount on your commitment card)*