



THE ABUNDANCE PROJECT

Background: Eucharist Church distinguishes its major giving goals into two “buckets”:

- 1) **Local Church Budget** - covers our own local ministry costs: salaries, resources, buildings, trainings, etc. in addition to donations to our diocese/deanery
- 2) **Support of Strategic Ministry Partners** - assisting the poor, disaster relief and development work, and proclaiming the gospel internationally

This second category (Support of Strategic Ministry Partners) is what we call *The Abundance Project*. The name comes from the ministry of Jesus, when on one occasion He fed the 5,000 (Mark 6:30-44) and then another where He fed the 4,000 (Mark 8:1-10). In both cases, Jesus took what appeared to be a clear lack of resources (five loaves and two fish on one occasion) and not only completed His goal of providing completely for the local, immediate needs of more than 5,000 people, but also produced enough to have a vast amount leftover... an *abundance*. This is the way God works. He takes our scarcity mindset, our fear of not enough, and He proves that five loaves and two fish in His hands are more than enough.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” - II Cor. 9:7-8

Vision: As a church we want to do far more than merely meet our own needs and support our local ministry, though these are essential. We want to think in terms of *abundance*. We want to give, sacrificially, with open hands - like the little boy in the story who has five loaves and two fish. We want to join God in meeting the needs of the poor, the downtrodden, and the forgotten; we want to see the gospel spread to new people-groups; we want to be able to quickly direct generous financial resources toward disasters and humanitarian needs that proclaim, in the form of sacrificial generosity, that God *and* His people are good news for this world.

A Modest Goal: 10% Although we hope to increasingly grow in generosity as the church matures, we will begin this year by challenging our congregation to give generously to meet not only our local church budget, but to donate an additional **10% above** and beyond our own local needs to address the needs of the poor, the oppressed, and those who have not heard the gospel. So if, for example, our local church budget is approx. \$400,000 that means our goal is to raise no less than \$40,000 for *The Abundance Project*.

How It Works: Each year our congregation is invited / challenged to give additional financial gifts toward *The Abundance Project* during three particular seasons of the liturgical calendar that naturally lend themselves to this focus: Advent, Lent, and Eastertide. Each season will have a particular cause/organization connected to it, chosen in advance. Additional donations can be added to *The Abundance Project* throughout the year by utilizing the Almsgiving Box on the prayer table, a check written to Eucharist / memo'd “Abundance Project”, or by donating online via Breeze or PayPal with specific designations.

How We Choose Our Partners:

The rector along with an ad hoc team of others from the congregation are chosen to research and recommend the strongest possible ministry partners for our church. The criteria includes: faith alignment, transparency/efficiency ratings by 3rd parties, partnership relationships, and more. If you have a particular partnership to recommend, please contact Fr. Ryan.