

“Each one of us must do just as they have purposed in their heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Siblings in a Resurrected Christ, grace and peace to you this day! The month of August is generally when we get back into the swing of things preparing for September to roll around. School begins again, the harvest grows closer to where we are, and we maybe even make plans to get into a fall mode knowing that after Labor Day, summer is pretty much finished for the year.

August is also a time when some of us develop a new program year that includes Christian Education, annual visioning, new ideas for evangelism and community engagement, and stewardship opportunities that may be new, or at least not yet tried. We are excited to share with you that now you can give to your church using a new on-line giving system.

On-line giving has been around for a few decades, but for the most part foreign in rural congregations because of the lack of sustainable internet. There is also the great feeling that some share placing the offering envelopes in the plate ourselves; I know I feel that way recognizing my giving is being added with the rest of the congregational offerings. However, now there is a way of making your giving and putting together a set-it and forget-it option taken straight out of your respective bank accounts. This new relationship that the three Neighbors in Christ congregations have ventured into allows our offering dollars to effortlessly be available on our NIC website, accepts reoccurring offerings with simplicity and ease, and adds multiple places that you as congregants can give to.

You now have the ability to not only give to your respective church, but you can also give to another in our NIC relationship, or to the Parish itself. You can now enjoy your offering being given to the church when you know that you will not be at a worship service during a specific weekend or not have the hassle of writing out the check on a weekly basis. It took me maybe two minutes to set up electronic giving through our www.NeighborsInChristMN.org website. It really is simple, quick, and highly effective to receive the dollars we need to continue on, but also give generously to our church communities and various ministries that we undertake.

Please remember that everything is God's and we have all been called as stewards to care for it. This also includes our giving. I encourage you to consider this new tool for your weekly offerings and also be able to easily put it in place with your daily and weekly actions. So many of us are already paying our bills on-line, so why give to your church in that way as well? If you have any questions about it, please speak with your respective church treasures, or me for more information.

Bless you all and I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Rev. Erik Karlson
Pastor, Neighbors in Christ