We Rise Together

2016 Stewardship Campaign

“Rise, let us be on our way” - John 14:31
“We rise by helping others.”
- Robert Ingersoll
Dear Members and Friends of LOPC,

We are truly living in remarkable times, characterized by constant change. The future is uncertain. Jesus knew this territory, and we can see time and again how he urged his disciples to look past the distractions, stay focused on him, and get about the business to which he had called them.

The American church, and no less LOPC, is facing many distractions these days – cultural conflict over difficult issues, growing distrust of organized religion, lower levels of involvement by young people, and more. In the midst of all that, Jesus is saying, “Follow me, and I’ll show you the way.”

The path we believe the Lord is establishing at LOPC, remarkably enough, is producing a church where diversity is respected, people are experiencing the joy of Christian community, with growing numbers of young people and families. Think for a moment how remarkable that is, and how important your support is to keep this ministry strong! Now, more than ever, your giving matters, and whatever annual gift you designate on the Estimate of Giving Card this year will be put to work as we follow Jesus together.

Know that all giving flows from gratitude and joy, and when we give, we are saying “Thank You” to God!

Peter Whitelock, Pastor
Conrad Breece, Stewardship Chair

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What does it take to Rise?

We are constantly building up a new church to meet the needs of our changing world with the hope and promise of the Gospel. In 2017, your giving will support:

- A new ministry for special-needs children to help families thrive.
- A redesigned website to connect our ministry to people in our community, region and world.
- Increasing our mission work serving those in need – it’s a top priority.
- New programs to build healthy relationships and strong families.
- Expanding diversity when it comes to ethnicity, lifestyle and age – all to reflect the growing diversity in our community.
- Providing salary adjustments for our hard-working staff.
- A revitalized men’s ministry.
- Increased homebound visitation.
- Broadening the participation of children, youth and younger members in our worship.
Giving Sunday is November 6, and this is the day we encourage members and friends to bring their Estimate of Giving cards for the coming year to worship. If you can’t be there, the card can always be mailed in or dropped by the church office.

Here are a few steps to consider in factoring out your estimate of giving:

- **Reflect** on some of the things for which you are grateful (this is a great activity to do with spouses and family).

- **List** the charitable causes that you plan on supporting this coming year, and rank them according to how important they are to you and your family.

- **Determine** what you think estimated family income will be for the coming year, and then write down the percentage of that amount you want to deploy to the church and charities. If you’re currently at 3%, for instance, then take a step up to 4%. It may seem impossible now, but step by step many of us have grown our giving over time to 10% or more. **Consider growing one step – 1% of expected family giving to support the great work at LOPC this coming year.**

- **Pray**, once you identify what your distribution will be; take some time to reflect and pray over it, asking, “God, is this what you want me (us) to give this coming year?”

- **Commit** by filling out the Estimate of Giving card and know how much your gift is appreciated, and will be put to good use through LOPC!
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the estimated dollar increase needed for this coming year?
Each year costs go up, technology changes, and there are rising levels of need in the world around us. To keep pace, we look annually at an increase of 5%, or over $100,000. We are a large congregation, with over 1,000 households, so this goal is only achieved if everyone “rises” to the occasion!

What are the top priorities we want to fund in 2017?
Our congregation is centered on providing worship, fellowship, care, mission and spiritual formation to all generations at LOPC in service to our community and the world. Beyond that, we are interested in building ministry online and expanding the ethnic and age diversity of our congregation.

Does my gift really matter?
In a word, “Yes!” LOPC thrives because everyone does what they can, and what they believe the Lord wants them to do. We believe that LOPC is truly impacting the community and world, and is worthy of your confidence and support, and it is truly appreciated!

Won’t my pledge make LOPC dependent on me?
The answer here is also, “Yes.” The church is a community of service and love, centered in Christ, and we only rise to meet the future together! We need one another.

How do I pledge?
In this stewardship packet is a pledge card for you to fill out, and, hopefully, bring to worship on November 6th. If you cannot make it, you can drop it off or mail it in the enclosed envelope.

How do I pay my pledge?
You can elect to pay by check, cash, credit card, ACH debits, and even stock transfers. When and how you pay is up to you – whatever best suits your circumstance. If you need to adjust your pledge during the year for any reason, contact Char Casella at (925) 283-8722, x253, or char@LOPC.org.

When do I send in my pledge payments?
You can choose to pledge a certain amount for the year and pay your pledge every week, once a month, or quarterly. You also have the option of paying the full amount at the beginning of the year in 2017.

What if I’m not ready to pledge right now?
How and what you choose to pledge to LOPC is up to you, your family and God! All we ask is that you consider making whatever commitment you can now, since that helps us put together a workable and fiscally prudent budget for the coming year. You can always raise or lower it at your discretion.
Is the Church Rising?

What is the range of pledges at LOPC?
LOPC has 1,900 members with 1,194 households. Of those, 566 households pledged $2,191,198.21 in 2016.

Therefore, from a total budget of approximately $3.3 million, roughly $2.2 million comes from Pledge Giving.

- 48 families pledged $1 to $500
- 169 families pledged $500 to $1,500
- 140 families pledged $1,500 to $3,000
- 106 families pledged $3,000 to $6,000
- 52 families pledged $6,000 to $10,000
- 47 families pledged $10,000 to $25,000
- 4 families pledged $30,000 to $120,000

Graphically, here is how your pledge is being spent this year:

- Children, Youth, Families and Senior Adults: 14%
- Mission and Outreach: 21%
- Worship and Music: 18%
- Facilities and General Administration: 31%
- Congregational Care: 7%
- Spiritual Formation & Fellowship: 9%

Worship and Music
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Children, Youth, Families and Senior Adults
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As you consider the gift you would like to make, here are some things to consider:

- **The church’s ministry is not funded by a select few**, but rather hundreds of individuals and families who prayerfully consider the gift that is right for them.
- Any estimate of giving you make for the year should be related to your estimated annual family income for the year; what we call “proportional giving.” That way, **we all give according to our means**.
- Sometimes **the best step is to simply get started**: Don’t worry about what others think, but focus instead on what you think God might want you to give.
- **Approach your giving fresh each year**, so that it can remain in relationship to your income. And think not only of the church, but other worthy charities. A good goal, and it may take time to get there, is to ultimately give away 10% of family income each year to serve the needs of others – both through LOPC and other organizations that are working to bring healing and hope.

**We Rise Together with the ministries of LOC**

THANK YOU for taking the time to prayerfully consider your 2017 pledge.

Questions about pledging?
Contact Char Casella, LOPC Treasurer, char@LOPC.org, (925) 283-8722, x253