

Dear Memorial Family,

I pray this brief letter finds you healthy, well, and at peace in the grace of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Please know that you are precious to the Lord and precious to us. And while 2020 has been a challenge to our life together as the community of Christ, it is also an opportunity for us to reaffirm to God, one another, and even ourselves how much we value the community that is Memorial Lutheran.

A long time ago, **God called on His Church to remember they were a community.** Even while apart and under stress, God called them to unite and to support each other and the ministry of the Gospel. It was a call to remember they were interconnected, a call to be involved and invest in their shared mission. **His call for the Community of Memorial is the same.**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work... You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.
-- 2 Corinthians 9:7-11

To help fulfill God's call, we have developed **"My Plan as Part of a Community Called Memorial 2021."** In it we have laid out four expressions of God's gifts to us where the facets of being Interconnected, Involved, Invested and Intentional can shine and reflect God's Grace. The plan is straightforward and simply calls for recognizing the gifts with which God has enriched you and then making a personal plan to honor God with those gifts. **Your plan is personal and is for you alone.** We will not be asking you to turn it in, but rather hold on to it as your own personal guide and help in carrying out your desire to honor God with your gifts and actions.

We are asking you to join with your Memorial Community in praying the prayer below. Then please sign and bring the prayer with you to worship on Sunday, November 22. Together we will bring our prayers and lay them before the Lord. If you are not yet worshipping in person, you may send your prayer to the church office electronically, by mail, or in person and we will include them on the 22nd or in the weeks to follow.

Please know that we will not be checking on who offered the prayer and who didn't. We will however, collect the prayers and keep them so that our staff and elders may pray over them throughout the year. **Our prayer will be that God will continue to move and enable you to honor him as you have planned and that in doing so, God will receive thanksgiving.**

For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God... Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! -- 2 Corinthians 9:12, 15

With much love and peace in Jesus,

Pastor John

Gracious Heavenly Father,

I come before you now, offering my thanks and praise to you for the many blessings and gifts you have entrusted to me. All these are yours, and I am but a steward, a caretaker, one entrusted to use these gifts for your kingdom purposes, for my neighbor's welfare, and to enjoy your goodness and mercies. You have enriched me in every way to be generous in every way so that you will receive thanks and praise from others.

I have prayerfully asked for your Holy Spirit to guide me and lead me in how I can best use these gifts, both for the present needs of your people and your mission, as well as for investing in the future of your kingdom work through Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy. Responding to that guidance, I commend to you the plans and commitments I have made for the coming year and pray that you will move me and enable me to honor them, and more importantly honor you by them.

May your name be hallowed, your kingdom come, and your will be done through the actions and gifts these plans encourage.

Your humble servant,

By the grace of God that abounds in me
and with the sufficiency He has provided me,
I plan to honor God with these gifts by...

**The Relationship I Have With
God Through Jesus Christ**

worshiping Him and
praying regularly &
learning and living
His Word faithfully.

**The Relationships
I Have With Others**

spending time with them,
sharing meals with them,
and asking for and giving help
as needs arise.

**My Plan as Part of
*A Community
Called Memorial*
2021**

**Time and Abilities of Mind
& Body In Different Measures**

spending this much time:

using these abilities:

for His Kingdom, His mission,
and His people.

**Possessions, Income, and
Other Material Goods**

being generous with:

in this way:

*For the ministry of this service is not only
supplying the needs of the saints but is also
overflowing in many thanksgivings to God...
Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
1 Corinthians 9:12, 15*