

My name is Therese Thorson, and I am a relatively new member of this church.

When I was invited to speak about why I support this church, I realized I did not have an answer. I did not grow up here celebrating family milestones; the churches of my youth are closed. But you share what this church means to you, as did my earlier church family at St Peter's in Stillwater. That has drawn me close to the heartbeat of this community. I see that as hope that we can be better.

What is enough? Stewardship discussions tend to make people uncomfortable. We don't like to talk about money, even though we know the costs of maintaining a comfortable space to gather. Let's shift the narrative to consider the opportunities we have because of the resources provided to us by a gracious and generous GOD.

We spent weeks considering our values to develop mission and vision statements, and I believe we need to respect that investment of time and energy when we adopt a genuine stewardship mentality. We invest in natural resources to preserve and improve our beautiful outdoor spaces I also believe we need to commit ourselves with money and time to changing the lives of ourselves and our neighbors. I challenge us to think outward, and to open our hearts. So much need surrounds us. Right now, people you know are going hungry and worrying about having a warm place to sleep. They are feeling like outcasts. I have been in their shoes before, and it is miserable. I know we can't cure the world, but we can make a difference right now by sharing with our neighbors, by our efforts to care for others and restore their dignity.

Ask yourself how your generosity with gifts given to you can support God's mission.