

Step-UP in Generosity

Resurrection Lutheran Church is committed to calling all people to Vibrant Life: more love, more joy, more peace, more patience, more generosity (Galatians 5:22-23). For Resurrection to meet our commitment to Vibrant Life we need our members to be generous. Not all our members are able to give at the same level, but we are all called to generosity. Over these next few weeks, prayerfully consider where you are on this journey and consider a “Step-UP.”

I am often asked about biblical teachings on giving, and there are actually several. First fruits (Proverbs 3:9) is one way to describe it, that our gifts are given out of our first fruits of the harvest. In other words, the first check we write each month is to God.

Another approach to giving, and one that is probably more well known, is a tithe, or committing a percentage of our income as a gift (Malachi 3:10). A full tithe is based on Abraham’s giving of 10% of what he had (Genesis 14:20).

God is also concerned with how we give: cheerfully, with trust and hope (2 Corinthians 9:7). So, with this guidance, let us enter in and prayerfully consider our generosity in and through Resurrection Lutheran Church.

What might a Step-UP mean for you?

Beginning or Sporadic Giver: Many of us will start at the beginning of this chart. If you have not given in the past, or if your giving has been a bit sporadic, here is a path forward:

STEP 1: Take some time with your budget and seriously consider what a consistent monthly gift would look like.

STEP 2: Trust that whatever the amount you prayerfully consider will impact Resurrection Church and beyond.

STEP 3: Consider the teaching on first fruits and tithing. You may find a specific monthly dollar amount to be more appropriate as you begin. That’s great! Or you may find that a 1-3% tithe of income is a great place to start. You may find a higher tithe is appropriate for you and your family. Remember the cheerful giving part. If you start too high, your giving will become a burden rather than a gift. Remember that you will grow into more generosity over time.

Regular Giver: For many of us regular giving is a normal part of our faith journey and is an act of worship. Your giving is a faithful response to God’s call for Vibrant Life. Thank you for your generosity. Would you consider a Step-UP in your giving this year?

STEP 1: Understand why this funding is needed. For Resurrection to fully live into its mission, our yearly budget should total \$750 – \$800k per year, which an increase of \$50 – \$100k from 2021. Our capital expenses, including building and technology, simply cannot be ignored year to year. Staff raises and new initiatives need funding, and our benevolence as a congregation to bless the world needs additional funding, as well. These commitments absolutely rely on our regular givers to consider a Step-UP.

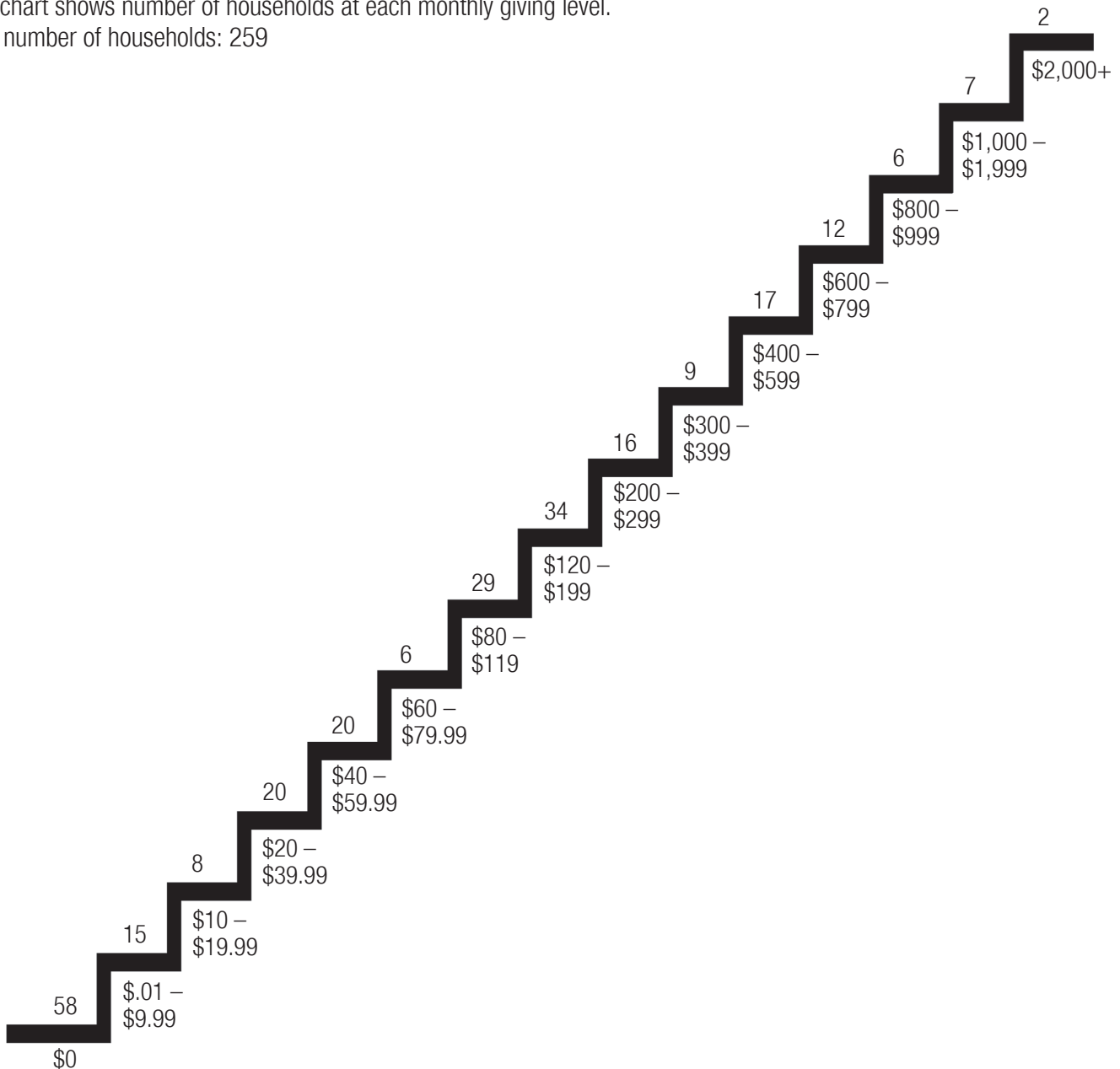
STEP 2: Trust what you already know and experience. Resurrection has been and will continue to call us to Vibrant Life.

STEP 3: Consider the teaching on first fruits and tithing. You may find that a 1-3% increase in your tithe is a great place to start, or that an increase in of a specific dollar amount may work better. Whatever your path, it will make a difference.

Resurrection Members Monthly Giving

2019 GENERAL FUND OFFERING (non-designated)

Step chart shows number of households at each monthly giving level.
Total number of households: 259



**Generosity is a fruit of the spirit because it is grown, and growth takes time.
But generosity is not a law. It's something that we get to do.**

What a privilege that we get to stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us! Generations and generations of Christians all around the world have grown and lived into their own generosity, and it is because of their generosity that we are here today, in our time, doing the same for our lives now and for the generations to come. Wow! Awesome!

Blessings to you!

– Pastor Paul Dean