



Growing FAITH

ASKING HARD QUESTIONS

Recently our third round of the Sacred Ground study kicked off, gathering us with siblings across our Indiana-Kentucky Synod and beyond to a time of learning, discussion, and prayer. Through videos, articles, books, and conversation on topics of race and our common history they will grow closer and learn to ask new questions, questions that can only come as eyes are opened. It is a testament to the power of this experience that our leaders continue to return, feeling called to share the experience with people in our congregation and beyond.

When the pandemic invited us to consider our focus and the purpose of our community, it taught us to not be afraid to ask the hard questions. Together, we continue asking through Sacred Ground, through Deepening Our Welcome, through Confirmation, Parents' Coffee Klatch, Bible studies, book club, grief groups, Stephen Ministry, and more. We are learning how to lovingly ask hard questions

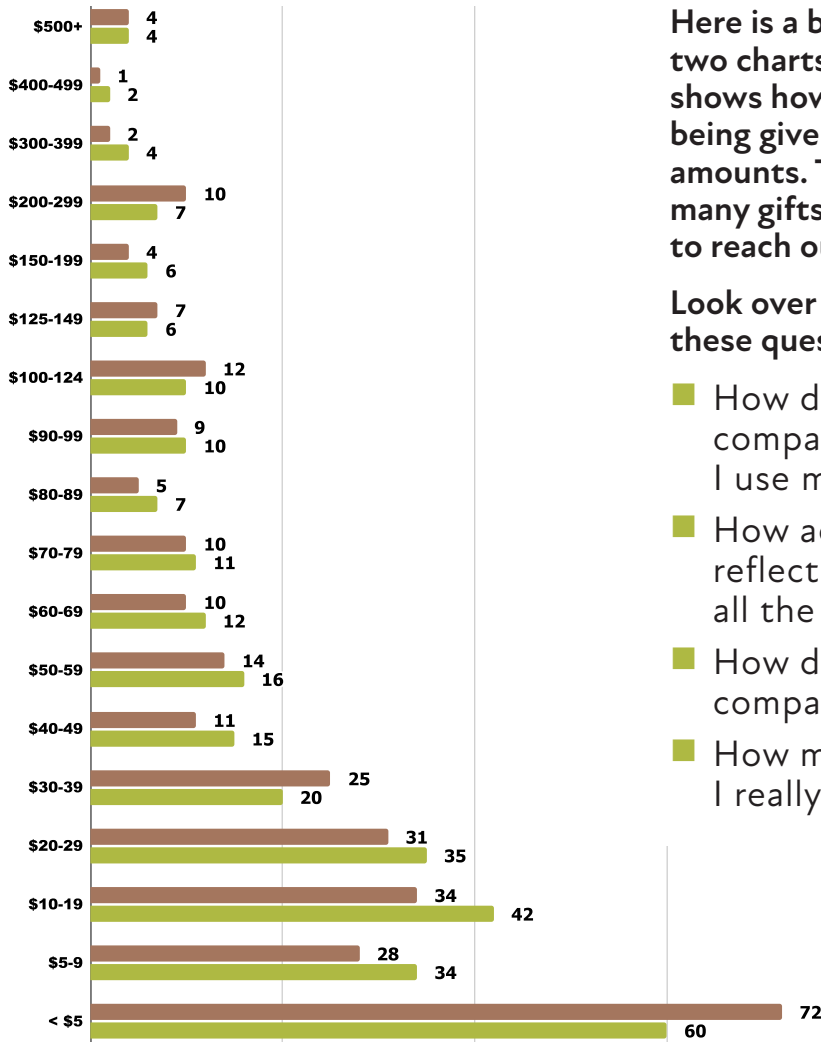
and not shy away from tough discussions, because we are discovering that God has a vision for community that unites us in grace, not uniformity.

Our ***Growing Faith*** 2023 Giving Appeal has a goal of increasing gifts and offerings by \$1,303 per week. Meeting this goal will solidify our foundations and enable us to dream, asking what God has in mind for us next. For us to vision, we need good footing. Our Giving Appeal will provide that, setting us free to ask hard questions.

Be sure to read the letter that will come to you soon. Study the ***Growing Faith*** brochure that will be enclosed. Pray for a generous response to this appeal. Consider prayerfully how you will respond to the invitation to increase your offering. The Lord will continue to bless our gifts and offerings as they build and open God's vision for Valparaiso and beyond.

APPEAL GOAL FOR 2023: INCREASE OFFERINGS BY \$1,303 PER WEEK

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



GIFT LEVEL WEEKLY RATE

NUMBER OF CURRENT GIVERS 289

NUMBER OF HOPED FOR GIVERS 301

Here is a bar graph which displays two charts of our giving. One bar shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts. The other bar shows how many gifts are needed in these levels to reach our goal.

Look over the charts. Ask yourself these questions:

- How does my giving level compare with the other ways I use my money?
- How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- How does my giving today compare to years prior?
- How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

“Listen, a sower went out to sow...” – **MARK 4:3**