

# SACRIFICIAL GIVING

## GIVING ABOVE AND BEYOND

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC District Stewardship Director

### Sacrificial Giving

While traveling in Korea, a Christian businessman noticed a young man pulling a crude plow with an old man holding the handles. "I suppose they are very poor," he said to a missionary guide. "Yes," replied the missionary. "They happen to be Christians. When their church was being built, they were eager to give something, but had no money. So they sold their only ox and gave the proceeds to their church. Now they are plowing by themselves." Stunned for a moment, the businessman said, "That certainly was a great sacrifice." The missionary quickly responded, "They thought they were fortunate to have an ox to sell."

### Sacrifice Involves Giving Up Something

One aspect of sacrificial giving is to deny oneself for the sake of someone else. A sacrifice bunt in baseball is made to allow other runners to advance while the hitter is out at first. The greatest example of all is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He denied Himself when He gave up his life for our salvation.

### Giving Above and Beyond

In order to build the Old Testament Tabernacle, Moses requested a special offering above and beyond regular giving. The response was astounding! The Israelites contributed "more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." (Exodus 36:5) The people were sacrificially so generous, Moses was compelled to restrain the people from contributing more. (Ex.36:6-7)

### Tithes and Offerings

Biblically, the tithe involved giving 10% of one's resources. Offerings were sacrificial gifts above and beyond the tithe. On offering was unacceptable unless the tithe was first given. Malachi 3:8 accuses the nation of Judah of

robbing God by not contributing tithes and offerings. A form of modern-day sacrificial giving is the financial support of special programs, projects and causes above and beyond a Christian's regular, proportionate, first-fruit every Sunday giving.

### An Example of Sacrificial Giving

In the 1980's the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod conducted a fund drive for missions called "Forward in Remembrance". The goal was \$40 million. Congregations were encouraged to engage in sacrificial giving. \$68

million was contributed! Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Parma, OH, alone, sacrificially contributed \$43,675. One member delayed purchasing an automobile in order to contribute a "forward phase gift" of \$2,400. Some withdrew funds from bank accounts and investments. Others readjusted their spending budget, denying themselves personal things in order to make room for a gift. Everyone was reminded not to "rob Peter to pay Paul" (lower their regular Sunday giving in order to make a special gift). Many embraced the idea to "give above and beyond" and were very generous. The current LCMS "Fan-intoFlame" effort to fund "Ablaze" outreach to reach 100 million people by 2017 totaled \$59.3 million on 9/10.

<b>SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS</b> (above 10% tithe)	
Regular Contributions	10 %
Social Security & Taxes	18 %
Food	13 %
Clothing	4 %
Shelter	24 %
Furnishings	1 %
Medical & Personal Care	4 %
Education	2 %
Transportation/Auto	8 %
Insurance	2 %
Savings & Debt Reduction	7 %
Vacation & Entertainment	3 %
Personal Gifts	1 %
Misc.	3 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### Current Opportunities for Sacrificial Giving

- \* Some special congregational need or project.
- \* A local hunger or crisis center.
- \* SELC Foundation - an opportunity to support ongoing missions. (407-365-5676 Ext. 1168) [rparis@lutheranhaven.org](mailto:rparis@lutheranhaven.org)
- \* The Lutheran Haven of the SELC District (1-407-365-5676) [www.lutheranhaven.org](http://www.lutheranhaven.org)
- \* Lutheran World Relief & Human Care (1-888-930-4438) <http://givenowlcms.org>
- \* LCMS Joint Seminary Fund (1-800-248-1930)