

NOW IT'S *OUR TURN!*

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2025



INTRODUCTION

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love. St. John's purpose statement boldly proclaims that it is God who is at work among us. God gifts us with grace, fills us with transforming love, and claims us as God's own beloved. We also proclaim that we are empowered to respond in turn, to live lives of grace, service, and love toward one another, toward our neighbor, and toward creation. We rejoice in the abundant life of God, which is gifted to us and flows through us!

NEEDS

In response to God's grace and love, the people of St. John's generously share their time and resources. The theme of our appeal, *Now it's our turn!* captures the spirit of the congregation. When needs in the congregation or community arise, again and again we answer the call.

When members of our church family have a need, others respond with care and compassion. When we learn of others struggling in our community, we ask how can we make a difference? When volunteers are needed, people step up. When an organization asks to use our space to make a positive impact in the community, we say yes.

In so many ways – hosting summer school classes for the children of farm workers; sending youth and children to camp, mission trips, and youth gathering; hearing the Good News in sermon and song and worship; carving pumpkins and decorating cookies with youth sheltering at CAPA – we respond by sharing God's grace and serving through love!

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore Love is what fulfills the law. – Romans 13:10

INVITATION AND RESPONSE

Year after year, the people of St. John's faithfully and joyfully respond to God's Love and the generosity of generations of church members by proclaiming: *Now it's our turn!* We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can join with all the people of St. John's to make a difference in one another's lives and in the community around us. As we move toward the completion of this appeal, we invite you to reflect on your sharing from the gifts with which God has blessed you.

Sunday, October 13 is Commitment Sunday. During worship, you will be invited to bring forward your enclosed Statement of Intention, offering your gifts to God for 2025. You may also deliver/mail your intention to the church office or fill out an online intention card at:

www.SJBft.org/Intent2025

We will celebrate our thanks to God and the tremendous generosity which God has created among us at our annual *Oktoberfest Picnic*, following the 10:30 am service. We look forward to being together with you!



157 Lady's Island Drive
Beaufort, SC 29907

(843) 524-3461 | www.StJohnsBeaufort.org

MINISTRY INITIATIVES

→ DEEPENING MINISTRY IN THE CONGREGATION

Your increased generosity will enable increased efforts to care for one another, provide excellent music, create new opportunities for children and youth to grow in faith, and support members in Bible study, fellowship, and time of need. Gifts will provide an addition of *Godly Play* Bible story educational toys for Children's Church and new adult faith discussion video series, helping members across generations deepen faith.

→ EXPANDING OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

Your new gifts will enable increased efforts to support and care for neighbors in need in our community and across the church. Your generosity can strengthen our ability to proclaim God's love by increasing support of local outreach ministries, food pantries, and children in need. Gifts will help support our first mission trip opportunity for adults and families, as well as a new ministry of providing meals for youth at CAPA.

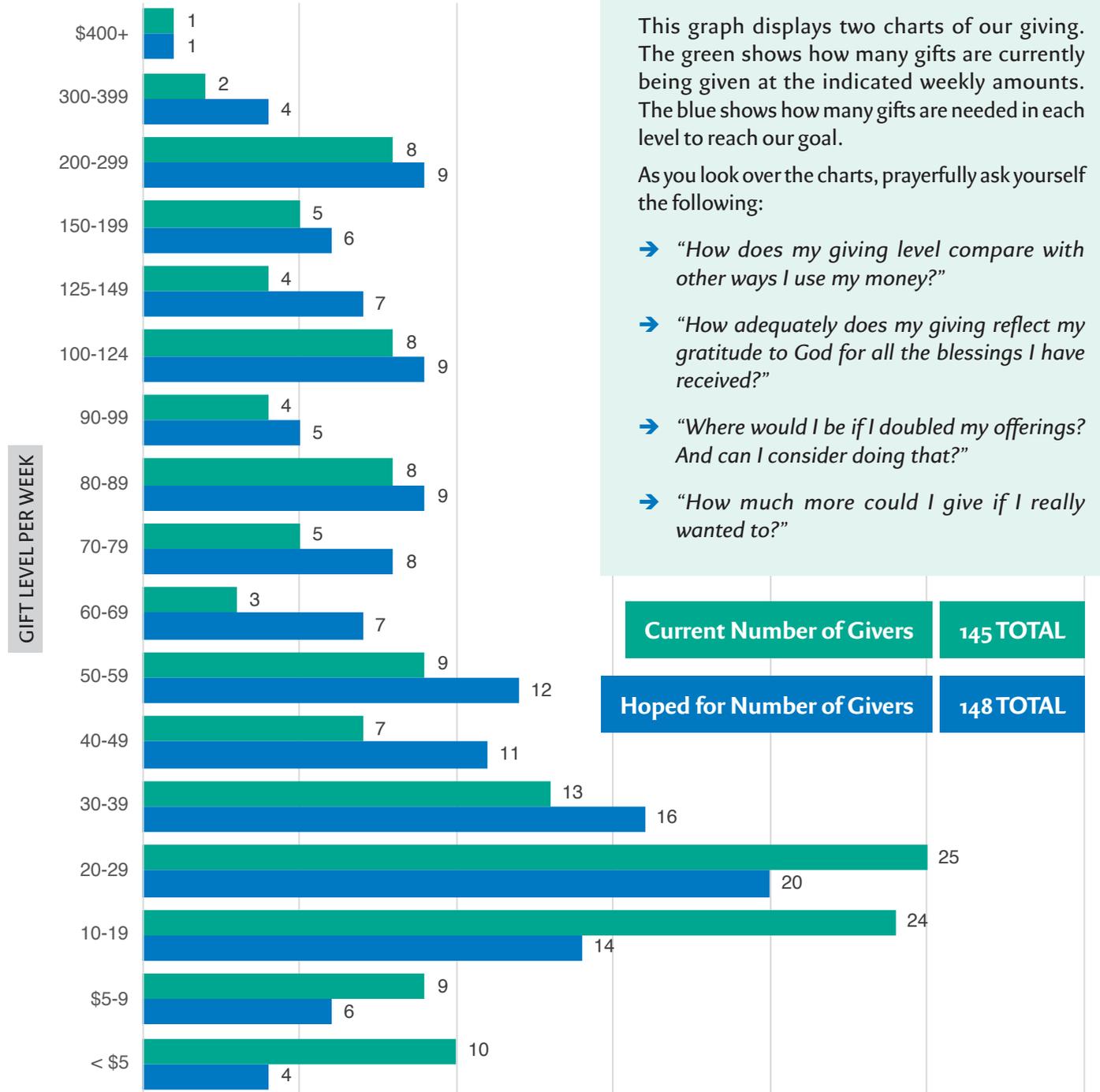
→ SUSTAINING MINISTRY EXCELLENCE

Your increased generosity will enable us to continue supporting our staff with appropriate and competitive salaries. Your new giving will cover the increased cost of paying the bills - utilities, insurance, supplies, maintenance, and all the other things that keep the church ministries going! Your gifts also replace gifts given by those faithful members who in the previous year have died or moved away from Beaufort.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



This graph displays two charts of our giving. The green shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts. The blue shows how many gifts are needed in each level to reach our goal.

As you look over the charts, prayerfully ask yourself the following:

- "How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?"
- "How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"
- "Where would I be if I doubled my offerings? And can I consider doing that?"
- "How much more could I give if I really wanted to?"