



Southwood
LUTHERAN

**GENE
ROUS**

Generous. It's a word we use to describe something that is bigger, larger, more plentiful than expected. The time someone spends with us. The portion we receive. The gift we are given. It's a great word for the work of God, who gives to us over and over. Forgiveness, grace, daily bread.

Stewardship, which is simply the deciding of what we will do with what we have, is rooted in the promise that as God has given to us today, so will God generously give to us tomorrow, freeing us to not hoard what we have but to share it for the benefit of others. It's that simple!

Generously, though, God does not just leave it there. No, when we give, God has this way of giving back to us, generously so. Sometimes we talk about it as the "joy of giving." You know what I am talking about. You sign up to help, but you walk away feeling like you benefited. You sign up to teach, but learn more than those whom you are teaching. You give, but find you get way more in return.

God has this way of making more, generously, like loaves and fishes.

At Southwood, we invite you to make a plan for your financial giving. We call it a pledge. It's an estimate that helps you be an intentional steward and us be responsible stewards as we budget and plan for mission in 2026. It's practical and necessary. But it's also, I hope, filled with the joy and delight of being a part of that mission. Of seeing the generous work that God does not only in your life but in the many lives of people touched through the ministries of Southwood.

You make a difference here! Thank you for prayerfully making a plan for your own generous giving. We trust God to do good things here! We are glad that you are a part of it.

Pastor Heidi

**WHY
GIVE**

Why give? I John 4:19, says, “We love because he first loved us.” The same is true of generosity. We are generous givers because God has so generously given to us. We give because we have been given to.

We give because God commands us to. When you harvest, God, through Moses, tells the people in Deuteronomy, do not harvest perfectly but leave a little behind for the orphan, widow, and foreigner (Deut. 24:19). In other places in scripture, the tithe, 10%, is presented as the guide for giving. In commanding us to leave some behind for others, there is a promise that, whatever harvest you have, it will, generously, be enough. Enough to share. Generously so!

We give because our neighbor, like the orphan, widow, and foreigner in Deuteronomy, needs us to. When we give, our neighbors benefit. They are fed, nurtured in faith, welcomed, helped. God gives us the vocation of being helpers to one another, blessed to be a blessing. When you give to your church, you are helping your church which, in turn, helps not only you but also others who are touched by Southwood's ministries.

We give because it's good for us. People who give are happier, healthier, more content, and grateful. Being generous and behaving generously not only benefits your neighbor, but it benefits you!

Finally, we give because we cannot help but do so. Abundant life has this way of overflowing and generously leaving a trail behind. The Holy Spirit moves you and God gets you to give and share your life and the gifts of it.

**YOUR
IMPACT**

Every gift given at Southwood is counted as generous. All along the way, in Southwood's history, God has generously provided through the offerings and tithes of members and friends. Small gifts, medium-sized gifts, large gifts, all **GENEROUS**. Impossible to measure, yet lasting in impact.

On Sunday, November 23, we will be celebrating that, in 2025, we retired our debt, paying off a mortgage that was so boldly taken on when Southwood decided to move to our current location and build a new facility. Southwood is built on the generosity of many for the sake of the generations to come – for their faith and the living out of that faith. Their love of God and others.

The work of God is generous here!

Your giving helps us:



Offer inspiring worship in-person and online to help connect faith and life.



Provide opportunities for spiritual growth through vibrant Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth programs, and small groups.



Serve the needs of others through our mission partnerships in Lincoln, Honduras and Tanzania.



Care for those who are sick, grieving, alone and hurting.



Reach out to our growing neighborhood.



Maintain our building so it can be the center for ministries and mission for both Southwood and the community.

**PLAN
HOW**

How does one give and make a pledge? Whether you are new to pledging or evaluating your pledging capacity, there are some tools to help you decide what your generosity will look like.

In 2025, Southwood's budget was \$2.72 million; pledges ranged from \$10/month to \$3,300/month. Like all parts of the body working together for the sake of the whole, so, too, does every gift matter and make a difference. It takes all parts!

The Giving Estimator helps us to plan giving. We encourage you to prayerfully consider your giving with a pledge for 2026.

Weekly	Monthly	Annually
\$10	\$40	\$520
\$25	\$100	\$1,300
\$50	\$200	\$2,600
\$75	\$300	\$3,900
\$100	\$400	\$5,200
\$150	\$600	\$7,800
\$200	\$800	\$10,400
\$250	\$1,000	\$13,000
\$300	\$1,200	\$15,600

To plan your giving with a pledge to Southwood, scan the QR code to fill out the online pledge form, or use the form below!



2026 Pledge Card

Complete this card and return to Southwood by Wednesday, November 26, or submit your pledge online: southwoodlutheran.church/pledge

Contact Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Update Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2026 Pledge

I am/We are ready to make a commitment in our giving to God's mission in the world.

With a giving spirit, I/we pledge:

\$ _____ ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ yearly

to the ministry and mission of Southwood Lutheran Church, beginning: ☐ January 1, 2026

☐ _____