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one congregation | multiple locations

*We care and share, serve and  
celebrate through God's love in  
Christ.*

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(e) [messiahlc@messiahvancouver.org](mailto:messiahlc@messiahvancouver.org)  
(w) [messiahvancouver.org](http://messiahvancouver.org)  
(w) [messiahnorthcounty.org](http://messiahnorthcounty.org)  
(w) [jubileecollective.org](http://jubileecollective.org)  
(p) 360.574.7081  
[facebook.com/messiahvancouver/](https://facebook.com/messiahvancouver/)

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**Messiah Hazel Dell Campus**

905 NW 94<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, WA 98665

**Messiah North Campus**

Windy Hills Winery  
1346 S. 38<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

**Jubilee Collective**

Vancouver YWCA  
3609 Main St  
Vancouver, WA 98663

Dear Members and Friends of Messiah,

The stewardship theme for the new year at Messiah revolves around the word “courage,” specifically, courage to love, live and give. Kathy and I think the theme is supremely apropos as the world continues to wrestle a stubborn pandemic.

Stewardship is also supremely expansive. It is *everything* we do after we say “I believe.” So, we encourage you to ponder the topic of courage as it relates to your life. We encourage you to converse with others about it. And we invite you to decide how your recognition of how God has gifted you *and* always replaces our fear with faith will influence all the ways you will go about loving, living, and giving in the new year.

A while back, when the congregation launched what would become Jubilee Collective, I remember a member of the Church Leadership Team saying, “Well, we’re going to go big or go home.” His remark was courageous, inspiring, and reflected a faith that typifies the Messiah community when we are at our best.

When it comes to giving one’s money, everybody knows that planned giving is best. It takes a bit of courage to make a pledge, return an offering regularly, and trust that God will multiply its benefits. However, Kathy and I can tell you from personal experience that pledging builds the spiritual muscles that always create greater faith. This packet includes materials or a link for you to make your 2022 estimate of giving to Messiah, and we sincerely hope you will.

Even as it still feels like we live in the time between what the Church used to be and do and how it will emerge in the future, we invite you to courageously invest yourself, your time, and your money in what will most certainly succeed. The Holy Spirit will make sure of this. Christ’s Church has weathered way worse over the centuries. We stand in a long line of courageous people dating back to a handful of women and men who were at first fearful at the sight of an empty tomb and then went on to change the world. Through them, the Holy Spirit began a movement that has been unshakable in the face of challenge and adversity, a people dedicated to and propelled forward by the proclamation that in Christ, fear and death are never the final word. We invite you to join them in courageously loving, living, and giving.

*Courage to*  
**LOVE • LIVE • GIVE**

Messiah Lutheran Church Stewardship 2022

Yours in Christ, Prs. Peter and Kathy Braafladt

11.22.2021

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*Messiah. The body in motion.*

# Courage to LOVE • LIVE • GIVE

Messiah Lutheran Church Stewardship 2022

## *Courage/*to Love.

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Jesus, Mt.22:37b-39*

Stewardship is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care—ourselves, our time, and our money—so that we can love God and our neighbor. Top line: **Stewardship is about courageous love.**

## *Courage/*to Live.

*“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” – Jesus, Jn.10:10b*

Jesus brings us not just forgiveness of our sins. Not just salvation and an ongoing relationship with a loving God. Not just eternal life after we die. Jesus brings us abundant life. Right now. **Stewardship is about courageous living.**

## *Courage/*to Give.

*“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” – Paul, 2 Cor. 9:8*

When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God's to share. **Stewardship is about courageous giving.**

*Pastors' message on reverse.*