## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT

**What is a commitment?** A commitment is our response of gratitude for the blessings of God. A commitment reflects what we believe about God. It's an expression of our faith, our good intentions put into good action.

We live in a world of daily commitments. In a world dominated by credit cards, one small piece of plastic handed to a clerk is a pledge or commitment. The simple fact that a home is equipped with gas, electric and internet service is proof that someone has made three separate commitments. Carrying a cell phone indicates a contract with a communications company.

We make commitments daily in order to live our daily life. How much more important is your commitment to the living God. We commit to God not in order to win God's favor or earn our way in God's sight, but because God has given and continues to give. God Almighty has already created, and continues to do so. We are the living evidence of that sustaining miracle. God has given us the Word and Sacraments, calls us into Christ's body, sustains and keeps us. Our congregation in worship and ministry together is a living sign of God's presence!

What does all this mean to you? Your response is your answer.

**How much should I give?** Only you can answer that question. You alone know what this means to you. SCRIPTURE ENCOURAGES "PROPORTIONATE GIVING" – a carefully determined, intentional percentage of your income and resources. *"On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he or she may prosper."* (1 Corinthians 16:2)

## **Commitments Grow into Faithful Giving**

## Faithful Giving Grows into Increased Faith

