



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



MAKING
ABUNDANT
LIFE KNOWN
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



All Congregation Event

Next Sunday is a special day in the life of our congregation. We will gather for our *Making Abundant Life Known* All Congregation Event. What a gift it is to be able to bring our people together to learn all the details about our Capital Campaign projects and our Annual Stewardship efforts.

There are two opportunities to attend. Please plan to join us on **Sunday, February 19th** at either **1:30 PM** or **4:30 PM** at the Hope Central Campus. There is no cost to attend.

Please register online to confirm your attendance.





Step 5: Decide to Give Sacrificially

Little was ever accomplished without sacrifice. This is true in our homes, our work, our church, and our country. Sacrifice is a necessary component of successful living.

And so it is with the Christian life and faith. Our salvation cost God the cross. Bonhoeffer rightly said there is no cheap grace.

Much of church giving is only *token giving*, averaging about two percent of income. No wonder there is so little joy or satisfaction in it! It requires no sacrifice. We have given only what we could easily afford, what we would not really miss.

Experience has shown that giving, to be meaningful and joyful, must be sacrificial. Each will have to determine what amount or percentage is sacrificial for his or her circumstances. But experience again suggests that for most people, sacrificial giving begins at five percent of income with proportions under five percent falling into the *token giving* category.

Church interest is often low, studies have shown, because investment is low. There is no sacrifice. It doesn't really cost anything. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." (Luke 12:34) Where is my treasure? Where is my heart?