

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 5/13/2024
How Much Does Your Church Matter?

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, May 14 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for the Congress of the United States. Pray for the leaders of our country and their work for our nation. Ask that they might set aside party differences and seek solutions that will bless our nation.*

Yesterday on National Public Radio I heard a gentleman asking questions to inspire people to give to NPR. How important is NPR to you? What would you do if NPR went away? How much of a difference does NPR make in your life? What is NPR worth to you?

I thought these were good questions, but I began thinking about them regarding our congregation.

How important is St. Andrew Lutheran Church to you?

What would you do if St. Andrew went away?

How much of a difference does St. Andrew make in your life?

What is St. Andrew Lutheran worth to you?

I suspect we don't often think of our congregation in this way. We assume that it will always be there for us. We may not even think of the value of St. Andrew in our life. I wonder if many think about St. Andrew beyond Sunday morning.

If St. Andrew were to close, to go away, there are other congregations to which we could go. But it wouldn't be the same. They wouldn't be St. Andrew. How much does that matter to you?

I heard a talk that suggested that if you want to know what is most important in your life, look at your checkbook or bank statement. What are your priorities besides the necessities of life upon which we spend? Where does your money go beyond the needs of your household and family? Do your financial records suggest that your church is important to you?

Though you may be very involved at St. Andrew, it is nevertheless to take it for granted in some ways. Our giving to our church and its ministries indicates how much our church matters to us. Your giving and your time are signs of how important your church is. Take a moment to evaluate your support for St. Andrew and why you provide that support. How much does St. Andrew matter to you?

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor Jeffrey