

## Here We Stand

When we raise our eyes to the hills, we see the colors of the Aspen Trees, shimmering in the wind. But were you aware that when looking upon an Aspen Grove, it is what is underneath that is so special? An Aspen Grove of Trees has one root, that shoots off to create a field of Aspen Trees. But it all comes from ONE root. The Beauty up above is what captures our attention, but it is what is underneath that sustains it.

We are entering a new journey in our life together as a congregation. We will stand tall together, bearing the fruit of...

**GRACE,  
GRATITUDE,  
and GENEROSITY.**

Generosity is the quality to be willing to share what God has given us. We look forward to your willingness to share in the support of the Mission of Cross of Christ.



**"They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit."**

Jeremiah 17:8

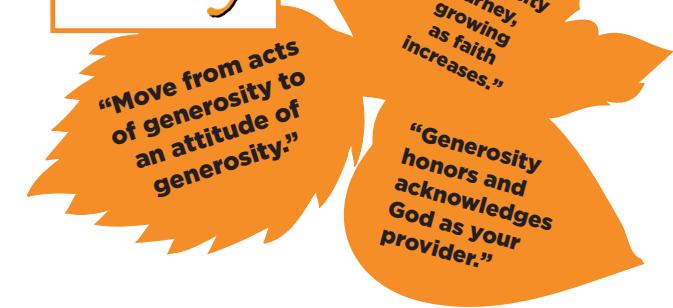
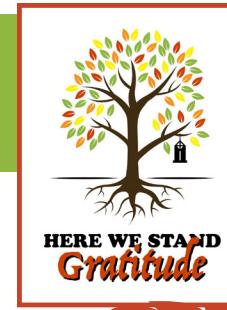
 CROSS OF CHRIST  
Lutheran Church  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



**HERE WE STAND**  
*Grace, Gratitude, and Generosity*

**GRACE  
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## GRACE

Grace is a gift from God, sacrifice from Christ, and given by the Holy Spirit.  
 It is a gift – nothing is owed in return.  
 It is completely unmerited.  
 It is free to the recipient but not to the giver. It is ours to keep.  
 God provides for us because He desires us to have it, not because we earned it.  
 We receive grace out of mercy, not from merit.  
 We can't earn grace. Good works are done out of gratitude.



**What is my response to God's GRACE in my life?**

## GRATITUDE

Gratitude is a FEELING that leads to ACTION. Appreciation, acknowledgment and respect are facets of gratitude. Gratitude helps you appreciate what you have rather than focusing on what you don't. Remember, what you now have was once the things you only hoped for. If we're not grateful, then no matter how much we have, we will not be happy. Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.



**Does my giving reflect my GRATITUDE for all the blessings I've received?**

## GENEROSITY

Generosity is a readiness to give, more than the size or importance of the gift. There are seven forms of generosity: thoughts, words, money, time, things influence and attention. Giving money away is a statement of faith that God will provide. Giving is a higher calling – take money you earn and give it to something that makes a difference. It's the heart that does the giving, the fingers only let go. -Nigerian Proverb



**How do I demonstrate the gift of GENEROSITY to express God's love in our community and the world?**