



# ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

December 16-18, 2023 – Joyful Generosity

## 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

### Joyful Generosity: First and Proportional

“Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” (NIV 2011 – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

**Verse 1:** Paul was gathering a collection of funds for “the Lord’s people.” Where were they?

Who was he collecting from?

What might be some sinful thoughts or reasons that keep us from helping out fellow believers in need?

How many churches wanted to be involved in this gathering of a *collection for the Lord’s people* who were in need in Jerusalem?

What are reasons why we as God’s people want to be charitable, helping others who are in need?

What are ways we help the poor here at St. Paul’s?

What are ways we help the poor in our personal lives right now, or things we might try?

**Verse 2:** We learn a lot of good, practical, and godly advice from the apostle Paul in this verse in regards to gifts to the poor among us (as well as when we consider our regular gifts to the Lord’s work).

“*On the first day of every week*” – what are the benefits of setting aside a gift for others right away in the week?

“*each one of you*” – What is the benefit of this grace of giving being for each person whether they have a lot or feel like they have nothing?

“*should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income,*” – how does “in keeping with your income” enable each person to be a part of this gift?

“*saving it up*” – It is wise to having savings. The “rainy day fund,” the “retirement account,” and other like funds can be wise and good provided we have the right heart. How does “*saving it up*” for gifts to the poor help keep our hearts from selfish, miserly, or worrisome hoarding?

“*saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made.*” – You see a rise in groups mailing, emailing, calling you for a charitable gift. Some people even try to scam others under the guise of a charitable gift. How does planning for this conscientious and prayerful gift each week encourage the right attitude for giving, and not “Oops, what do I have left in my pockets?!?”

Why is it better for us as Christians to give to God and others first and not the leftovers?

How has Jesus given us the best motivation for giving gifts to the poor?