

April 9, 2026

Dear Eastridge Church,

As we live in the light of the resurrection, we are filled with gratitude for how the Holy Spirit is moving among us. Over 200 gathered on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, 17 people were baptized as more than 700 worshiped together. Truly, this is a season of harvest.

Like the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8–9, we are grateful for what God is doing, because the same Spirit at work then is moving powerfully among us today.

Paul invites us into a vision of generosity that is not driven by pressure, but by grace, a joyful participation in the heart of God Himself.

We are reminded that giving brings joy to God. When we give freely and cheerfully, we reflect His nature as the ultimate Giver. Our generosity becomes an act of worship, a visible expression of our trust in Him and our gratitude for all He has done. God delights not in the size of the gift, but in the sincerity of the heart behind it.

At the same time, giving transforms us. Paul points to believers who gave even out of hardship, discovering that true generosity flows not from surplus, but from hearts anchored in God's provision. As we give, we loosen our grip on what we have and deepen our dependence on Him. In that process, we discover a joy that cannot be found in holding on.

This truth speaks directly to where we are as a church family. God has placed before us a meaningful opportunity: to build out the lower level of our church and reduce our mortgage, freeing up resources for expanded ministry.

These are not merely financial goals; they are ministry goals. They are about creating space for people to gather, grow, and be transformed, and increasing our ability to respond to needs both within and beyond our walls.

As we step into this season, we do so not out of obligation, but out of vision. Every gift becomes part of something larger. Every act of generosity helps lay a foundation, both physically and spiritually, for what God desires to do next. Reducing our financial burden strengthens our future flexibility, allowing more resources to flow directly into ministry, outreach, and care for others.

And this is the beauty of God's design: giving not only honors Him and transforms us, it also blesses others in tangible and lasting ways. As Paul writes, generosity meets real needs and overflows into thanksgiving to God. Lives are touched. Faith is strengthened. God is praised.

There is also a powerful witness in this. When a church gives with unity, joy, and sacrifice, it tells a story to the world: our hope is not in what we hold, but in the God we trust.

So, as you consider your part in this season, remember this: you are not simply contributing to a project, you are participating in God's ongoing work. You are helping create space for ministry, remove barriers to future growth, and extend the reach of the gospel.

May we abound in this grace of giving. May our hearts be filled with joy, our faith strengthened, and our vision expanded. And may God multiply every gift for greater impact, deeper unity, and overflowing thanksgiving.

I would love to invite you to attend one of our **Lighthouse Project Dessert gatherings** on Tuesday, April 21 or Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 pm in the lower level. Come and see what God has already done and hear about the exciting next steps ahead.

Please take a moment to register at eastridgechurch.org/lighthouse and let us know which evening you'll be joining us. We look forward to seeing you there!

With encouragement and hope,

Ken Maes
Lighthouse Project Team Leader