

## Loving Our Neighbour

Dear friends,

For many, 2020 has been a difficult year. From unemployment to illness to isolation, our community members are in need more than ever before. Consequently, we have chosen **Loving Our Neighbour** as this year's Stewardship Campaign theme. It is perhaps a bit ironic that our efforts to stave off the COVID-19 pandemic through social distancing has made us realize just how close and reliant we are on so many people. We have probably never felt so thankful for our truckers and farmers, nurses, teachers, and grocery store workers. The fact is, our neighbours are everywhere. And for Christians, this is not new. We share a special connection with people around the world and today we welcome more people into that family. As always, our mission is to provide and care for these people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, or circumstance. As our circle grows, so does our responsibility. So too, does the joy we share in giving.

Although the pandemic has precipitated many changes and many uncertainties, Grace-Westminster has remained as a beacon of hope and stability, a place of courage and refuge in institution and in our hearts. While we adapt to a new reality where remote connections are the norm, we must remember that this, too, is not new for us. We have relied on remote connections throughout our history, just not the kind that require cell phones and reception. I'm referring, of course, to prayer.

As Grace-Westminster moved into 2020, we also had to adapt to the new forms of wireless technology. For the first time ever, our services are regularly live-streamed, allowing us to reach our regular Sunday faithful and newcomers who seek the same sense of belonging and community that we have all grown accustomed to. While COVID-19 hasn't dampened our festive, congregational spirits, it has limited our ability to share in fundraising activities together. This has had a profound impact on our budget. Thanks to your continued offerings and governmental assistance, we have weathered the summer and fall months. As you see here, the roughly \$65,000 in government grants have made a considerable impact on our bottom line:

	<u>With government grants</u>	<u>Without government grants</u>
Total revenue (Jan. – Oct.)	\$275,084.24	\$210,687.02
Total expenses (Jan. – Oct.)	\$276,842.11	\$276,842.11
Net income	<b>-\$1,757.87</b>	<b>-\$66,155.09</b>

However, as we round the corner on 2020, our finances are still coming up short. So we're asking you, our neighbours, to help support us in this time so that Grace-Westminster can continue to fulfill God's work through ministries, mission, and outreach. We're hopeful that together, we can make this the best Stewardship campaign yet.

As many of you join us virtually, we also hope that you will consider giving through PAR, or preauthorized remittance. You can also e-transfer your contribution to us at [gracewest@sasktel.net](mailto:gracewest@sasktel.net). For those who have returned to our in-person services, a card is available to put in the collection plate saying "I'm on PAR." However, we are thankful for all of your donations regardless of the amount and frequency in which you give.

On behalf of the Admin Team and all of the groups who use this church, we thank you for your ongoing support in making Grace-Westminster the wonderful place that it is.

Respectfully,

Brandon Sparks  
Administration Team Chair