BE/CAUSE

HE DID. I WILL.







HE DID. I WILL.

This Book Belongs to:

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A LETTER FROM PASTOR JASON

BETHLEHEM FAMILY,

I believe everything we do as followers of Christ is in response to what He has already done. I John 4 tells us, "We love because He first loved us."

I BELIEVE WE SERVE BECAUSE HE FIRST SERVED US. I BELIEVE WE GIVE BECAUSE HE FIRST GAVE TO US.

God has been so good to Bethlehem, and I believe we all collectively feel that it's time to take the next step. In this next season, we have the opportunity to link arms together and to consider ministry endeavors we've never considered before.

What if God's faithfulness in this past season at Bethlehem has prepared us to experience God's future faithfulness in a brand new way? I am convinced our dark world needs the bright light of Jesus like never before. There is no greater cause on the planet than the cause of Jesus Christ. For that very reason, Nan and I are excited to invite you to join us as we follow the Spirit and move forward in this new season together.

Blessings,





WHERE WEVE BEEN



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH HISTORY

OVER 115 YEARS OF IMPACTING LIVES

Bethlehem Church is a story of people having faith in a big God no matter what they faced. Over the past 10 years, God has accelerated our influence beyond anything we could have imagined. We are now one church with many locations, and we have grown from a few hundred people to multiple thousands, believing our best days are still to come.

1905

A group of women in the church began helping people in the community by delivering Christmas baskets, food, fruit, and flowers throughout the year. They also visited the sick and needy and spent time praying with them and reading Scripture.

1994

Lightning struck the church's steeple, causing a fire to engulf the sanctuary, and the church began meeting in multiple locations.

1997

Construction of our current 316 Campus was completed and the first services were held.











1904

A group of people living and working together in the same community needed a place to gather and worship, so property was purchased and a wooden sanctuary constructed in the first location of Bethlehem Church.

1948

The church was revived after a period of inactivity, and equipping children and students became a focus.

1995

The church purchased 29 acres to construct what is currently the Bethlehem Church 316 Campus.

2014

North and South Dual Worship Venues began at the 316 Campus.

2017

Bethabra Baptist Church became Bethlehem Church 211 Campus. 2019

Riverstone Church became Bethlehem Church Oconee Campus. 2022

The church purchased 32 acres of land with cash at the corner of Highway 53 and Jackson Trail Road for the construction of the new 316 Campus. Plans developed for renovating next-generation space at both the 211 and Oconee campuses.













2016

Groundbreaking took place for the current 316 Campus Auditorium.

2017

New 316 Campus Auditorium and Main Lobby opened. 2020

Bethlehem Church responded to the global pandemic with weeknight online Worship & Word services to be a source of hope in the midst of great uncertainty.

WHEREWEARENOW





\$=0 \$750K+

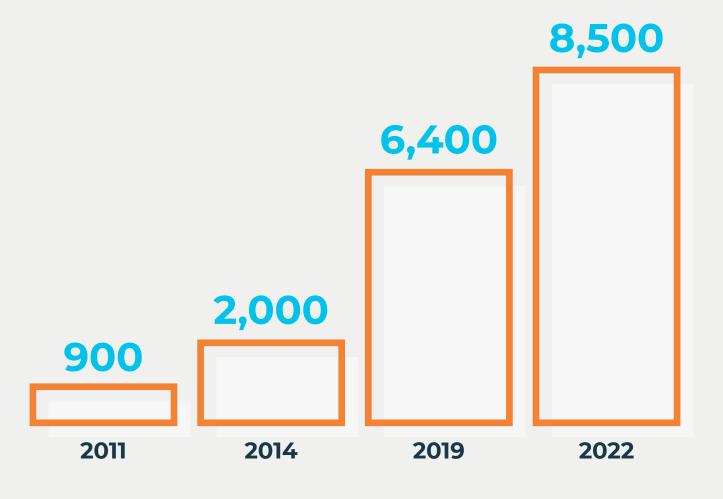
Contributed annually through existing community partnerships both locally and globally



Volunteers serve each Sunday across 3 campuses

EASTER

ATTENDANCE











Next Generation Buddies

Bethlehem

BAPTISMS

BETHLEHEM

GROUPS



IMPACT

2, Baptis past 1

2,000+

Baptisms in the past 10 years



430K+

Unique webpage views in the last year



70K+

Unique site visitors in the last year







82K+

Sermon views in the last year



25,700+

Beyond Sunday Podcast downloads



10,100+

Bethlehem Church App downloads



Participants per semester



300+

Monthly listeners of Bethlehem Worship on Spotify



54K+

Bethlehem Worship songs played on Spotify

GLOBAL

IMPACT



IMPACT



650

Kids sponsored annually by

Bethlehem families



Churches planted in Brazil



Church plants supported across the country



1010

2017 Launched New Path 1010 to meet food insecurity needs in 275+ kids in Barrow County



\$130K

Contributed annually to global ministry partners



40

Lives of Ugandan teenage mothers saved through support of Kupendwa Ministries



\$1M

Raised for community non-profits through GIVE HOPE across two years



\$250K

Provided to individuals and community organizations for COVID relief



3,000+

Meals served in Uganda and Costa Rica during COVID-19 lockdowns





500+

Volunteers mobilized annually to serve our community



4,200+

Meals served annually to school staff members in Barrow, Jackson, Oconee, and Walton Counties



1,500

Backpacks filled with school supplies donated annually across Barrow, Jackson, Oconee, and Walton Counties



125+

Bethlehem students annually serving non-profits across Barrow, Oconee, and Walton Counties

WHERE WE ARE GOING



PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

GIVING DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

experience the initial joy of

putting Jesus' words into

action (Matthew 7:24).





CONSISTENT GIVER

is someone who decides to give something and give it consistently to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who chooses to make an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the joy of consistency. Nononline givers can also be consistent givers; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).



PRIORITY GIVER

is someone who understands the preeminence of Christ and that He is before all things – that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience the freedom of serving "one master" and declaring Jesus is first (Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 1:15-20).



A SURRENDERED GIVER

We are praying for all-in engagement from those who call Bethlehem Church home,

and we are inviting everyone to go on a journey of the heart in this season. In God's eyes, our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a heart transformation. You can use the "Giving Discipleship Journey" as a tool to chart where you are now and how you might experience new joy in trusting God with your giving.

is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole self for us, and therefore we desire to offer our entire selves to Him in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, "My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It's also changing me!" They also look at what they're not giving away and ask, "Is it surrendered too?" This informs how they use everything they've been blessed and entrusted with - whether through direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or vehicle.



is someone who sees the eternal impact of their giving – on them and on others – not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish. This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to "do good... to be generous and ready to share," the more they "take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:19). This person looks at what they have and asks, "Am I stewarding this for God's Kingdom or for me?" This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.

OUR SECONDARY GOAL



BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS AN ETERNAL CAUSE WITH AN IMMEDIATE CURE \$15 MILLION

Together we will continue to invest in our ongoing ministries and trust God to accelerate the life change that is happening week in and week out. The current two-year ministry budget is \$13.5 million, and this includes each campus, every ministry, and every Gospel initiative that serves kids, students, adults, and people with special needs.

BECAUSE every community needs a champion, we will increase our investment in our local and global community by committing \$1.5 million in this next season. The local church should be the greatest source of hope in the community where God has placed it. Our community should be better because the people of God, changed by Jesus, are an active part in the life of the community. We will continue to lock arms with non-profit organizations who are doing the hard work of holistic change in the lives of people in the hardest of situations.



BECAUSE EVERY LIFE MATTERS TO GOD AND JESUS LOVES THE LOST \$12 MILLION

The reality is we have maximized the use of every square inch of our current facility and haven't come close to reaching all the lives that Jesus wants to change. Doubling our seating capacity at the 316 Campus allows us to then create new next-generation space on each campus. Our 316 Campus will also incorporate a new, multi-functional community and student building with surrounding green space to further expand our outreach and impact.

*Additional facility costs to be covered by fair market value sale of current 316 Campus location to Bethlehem Christian Academy and financing from a ministry partner.

WHAT IS A "ONE FUND" INITIATIVE?

You may have been a part of church campaigns in the past during which you were asked to give a second gift above and beyond your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and new ministries possible.

Usually, you gave that gift to the "Building Fund," and you also continued to give offerings to the "General Fund." This type of giving can confuse people new to giving, and it can be hard for you to celebrate your total giving to Bethlehem Church with a single number. We believe that all giving goes to ONE MISSION – and that mission is to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. So, for this next season of ministry expansion, we will give our gifts to Bethlehem Church into one fund and celebrate the totality of our generosity growth as disciples of Jesus.

The BE/CAUSE initiative will last for two years. In those two years, every gift given will go to the key components of this initiative: our general ministry budget, ministry expansion to continue reaching those far from Jesus by investing in a new 316 Campus, as well as expanding our 211 and Oconee Campuses, and continued investment in our local and global community. These areas are explained in detail in the pages of this booklet.



We've included a sample commitment card in the back pocket of this book so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God. You can either bring that exact card or we will have a new one for you on Commitment Sunday, November 13th. We're also praying that many will join us for Advance Commitment Night at all campuses on Sunday evening, October 30th.

MESSAGE NOTES







2 Corinthians 8:1-5 ESV

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

1 John 4:19 ESV

We love because he first loved us.

Colossians 1:15-18 ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.







2 Corinthians 8:8-9 ESV

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:13-15 ESV

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵ As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

Luke 12:25-34 ESV

"And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Luke 21:1-4 ESV

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³ And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."







2 Corinthians 8:16-24 ESV

But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. ¹⁸ With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. ¹⁹ And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. ²⁰ We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, ²¹ for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. ²² And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. ²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. ²⁴ So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

1 Peter 4:7-11 ESV

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.







2 Corinthians 9:6-9 ESV

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

⁹ As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever."

1 Timothy 6:6-10 ESV

But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.



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Ephesians 3:7-21 ESV

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS





BETHLEHEM STORY

Scan this QR code to watch a Bethlehem Life Story and discuss the additional questions.



□ READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

EXAMINE

1.	The Macedonian churches went through severe trials and affliction, yet Scripture says, "Their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." Have you ever experienced abundant joy and extreme poverty at the same time? How can that be possible?
2.	What do you think Paul means by saying, "They gave themselves first of all to the Lord"?
3.	In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses the compelling model of the Macedonian churches and their faith to influence others in generosity. Who has influenced you in the area of biblical generosity?
4.	As you steward your life, how do you influence others? Who is being impacted by your actions and demonstrations of your faith?

PRAY (talk and listen to God)

Lord, I am grateful for Your love and how You showed it by giving us Your best. Thank you for Jesus. I desire to give You my best and surrender every part of my life today, this week, this year, and for the rest of my life. Give me courage and faith to put You first. I ask for clarity on how You want me to be an active part of this next chapter. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-19
- Wednesday: Colossians 1:3-23
- Thursday: John 1:1-14
- Friday: Proverbs 3:1-20
- Saturday: Galatians 2:15-21



BETHLEHEM STORY

Scan this QR code to watch a Bethlehem Life Story and discuss the additional questions.



Scan this QR code to watch a Bethlehem Life Story and discuss the additional questions.

☐ READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-23

EXAMINE

this?

nations"?



TREAD 2 CORINTHIANS 8:8-9, 12-15

EXAMINE

	not have. Do you give in a way that places Christ first in all things? Does your giving affect your saving and spending decisions, or do your saving and spending decisions affect your giving?
2.	What is an appropriate response to what Jesus gave up for us? Have you made choices in the past regarding your lifestyle and resources that impact your ability to love and honor God in the present? What might God be asking you to do about it?
3.	Paul uses the word "fairness" in this passage. How do you feel about that word? Sometimes we fear being taken advantage of if we share what we have with others. Paul insists that we are not to make life easy for others yet difficult for ourselves. In light of this passage, how can we view fairness in a Kingdom light?
4.	The Macedonians' story is inspiring. Have you ever shared your giving story with others? Would you share it now? Could your story be an inspiration to help others on their journey? How might God use your strengths and struggles in this area for His glory?

1. Paul challenges the Corinthians to give from what they have instead of focusing on what they do

PRAY (talk and listen to God)

Lord, thank you for all the ways You have blessed me. Help me to recognize all of the ways You have provided for me. I realize that You own it all, and You have allowed me to steward these gifts from You. Please help me trust You more than I trust in what You have provided me. Lead me to follow You with an open heart and open hands. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:8-9, 12-15
- · Tuesday: Luke 11:24-36
- Wednesday: Luke 21:1-4
- · Thursday: Matthew 6:19-24
- Friday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- Saturday: Proverbs 11:24-31

PRAY (talk and listen to God)

Lord, You have led me to be a part of this church, and I am grateful for that. Lead me now and give me wisdom to know how to best serve Your body and generations to come. I am thankful for salvation and how You continue to work in my life. Continue to change and grow me into the person You created me to be. - Amen.

1. According to this passage, what are the responsibilities of the leaders to the church? What is the church's responsibility to our community and the world? How does Bethlehem Church fulfill

Read Matthew 28:19-20. This is known as the Great Commission given to the disciples by Jesus.
 How does giving through the church, not to the church, help us go and "make disciples of all

3. We have been given the good news of the Gospel, the saving message of Jesus Christ. This is the best news, and we want the world to know it. How does our generosity help fulfill this?

4. What is the "act of grace" that Paul talks about in verse 19? (See also verses 6-7 from Week 1.) Jesus led the way in generosity. He gave Himself for us. Our generosity then is a response to God's grace to us. What does this look like practically in our lives?

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:16-23
- Tuesday: 1 Peter 4:7-10
- Wednesday: Matthew 28:16-20
- · Thursday: Colossians 3:12-17
- Friday: Acts 2:42-47
- Saturday: Ephesians 2:11-22



BETHLEHEM STORY

Scan this QR code to watch a Bethlehem Life Story and discuss the additional questions.



Ⅲ READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9

EXAMINE

l.	Paul shares about reaping and sowing in chapter 9. What is your first response to this passage?
2.	Notice the order in this passage. Paul attaches God's provision to a person's generosity. Those who sow generously will reap generously. We often think it's the other way around: We will become generous if and when we have more to give. It seems counterintuitive, but that's usually how the Kingdom works. Give an example of how you have seen this principle at work in your own life.
3.	How is sowing generously or sparingly a matter of the heart? Have you ever given reluctantly or under compulsion?
4.	How does one arrive at being a cheerful giver, sowing generously, and seeing God provide abundantly?

PRAY (talk and listen to God)

Lord, thank you for what You have done in my life over the last weeks. Thank You for the joy and privilege of participating in the work that You are already doing. Give me clarity on my next step of obedience when it comes to generosity, and help me to make sure that You are the priority of my life. - Amen.

READING PLAN

- Monday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
- · Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- Wednesday: Philippians 4:10-20
- · Thursday: Acts 4:23-47
- Friday: Matthew 16:13-26
- Saturday: Galatians 6:1-10



BETHLEHEM STORY

Scan this QR code to watch a Bethlehem Life Story and discuss the additional questions.



Ⅲ READ EPHESIANS 3:7-21

EXAMINE

red himself "the very least of all the saints" in verse 8? Have you ay?
ow come boldly and confidently into God's presence?
d's faithfulness and provision for us cause us to live our lives in
do much more than we can ask, think, or even imagine! Do your or why not?
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PRAY (talk and listen to God)

Lord, I know that You can do far more abundantly than all I could ask or think, so please help me to trust You completely with all that I have – because it is all Yours to begin with. Help me to use the gifts and talents that You have given me to serve Your body well. – Amen

READING PLAN

- Monday: Ephesians 3:7-21
- Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Wednesday: Matthew 14:13-21
- Thursday: Luke 5:1-11
- Friday: Matthew 14:22-33
- Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I commit to BE/CAUSE, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, and other special offerings or designated gifts?

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through Bethlehem Church is a contribution to our **BE/CAUSE** initiative. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us towards for the next two years will be funded through **BE/CAUSE**. There will not be separate funds. Every gift given to Bethlehem Church will go to the key components of this initiative – continuing to invest in our ongoing ministries, increasing our investment in our local and global community, and further expanding our outreach and impact through facility expansion.

What are you asking me to do?

First and foremost, we ask that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and listen to what He says. Engage in a small group during this season if you haven't already joined one. Engage in personal reflection with God in this **BE/CAUSE** guide. Talk with your group, spouse, family, friends, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a commitment to gospel-driven, surrendered generosity – whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God, and we anticipate He will move in huge ways as we seek an unprecedented impact from our collective **BE/CAUSE** commitments - something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 13, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and your own faith.

Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give more towards BE/CAUSE?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards **BE/CAUSE**. You might have some stocks, property, or other stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give out of during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you with that. You can contact Brad Carter at bcarter@bethlehemchurch.us or 770-867-3577 to make a gift of this type.

How long is my commitment?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give on Sunday, December 4, 2022, and will culminate in December 2024.

What if I don't have a job right now? What does that mean for my BE/CAUSE commitment?

BE/CAUSE is about your total, prioritized, gospeldriven generosity to God's mission at Bethlehem Church. We believe that God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, which looks different for every person. **BE/CAUSE** is about a heart surrender and trusting the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your life - something that is only accomplished by seeking the Lord and responding to His call and His Word. So that may mean that you are challenged to sell things, pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for as you seek for ways to sacrifice and work towards that commitment. We would love for 100% of us to be a part of **BE/CAUSE** so that we can all support, love, encourage, and pray for one another through this spiritually stretching season at Bethlehem Church.

What if I'm moving within the next two years, or if I am uncertain about how long I'll be a part of Bethlehem Church?

The truth is that none of us knows exactly what our future will hold. That's the beauty and challenge of taking steps of faith! We want to encourage you that even if you're not sure if you'll be a part of Bethlehem Church for the entire span of the next two years, we invite you to still commit to generosity and be a part of this life-changing endeavor God has for our church. If needed, you may modify your commitment at any time. But often, people will continue to support Bethlehem Church even after they've left the area as a ministry they continue to be a part of into the future. If you happen to move out of the area, we would love for that to be your story!

What if I am significantly in debt right now? Am I still supposed to give?

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. Being in debt does not excuse someone from giving. Giving isn't about what God wants *for* you. So it should be our joy and privilege to give at all times, regardless of the amount or percentage.

Please contact us at *bcarter@bethlehemchurch.us* if you need assistance with paying off debt while still giving or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor, and we would be honored to help.

What if I have never even given to Bethlehem before?

BE/CAUSE was crafted specifically with you in mind. BE/CAUSE is a "one fund" generosity initiative, which is different from a traditional capital campaign in which you give an extra gift above and beyond your regular giving - thus creating two steps for people who aren't yet giving. BE/CAUSE is a call to surrendered, gospel-driven generosity for absolutely everyone at Bethlehem Church. If you have never given before, this is your invitation to get in the game with committed giving. We really hope you will!

What if I am new around here?

BE/CAUSE is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would love for you to make Bethlehem Church your home and join us in **BE/CAUSE**. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time to put a stake in the ground and make this your church. We need you on the team!

What if I haven't been baptized yet?

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before attending church. Others start going to a community group before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. Just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. And God is calling ALL of us to give. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Whether or not you have taken the spiritual step of baptism, we would encourage you still to join us in this **BE/CAUSE** initiative. We firmly believe that it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to be baptized and fully surrender your life to the Lordship of Christ.





KEY DATES

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

October 30th

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 13th

"We love because he first loved us."

1 JOHN 4:19 ESV

BETHLEHEMCHURCH.US/BECAUSE