

Inspire! Invite! Thank!

Generosity, Giving & Gratitude Seasonal Ideas

January 2019 – Season of new beginnings and aspirations and the season of seeing and revealing God’s love through Jesus. The Light of the World has arrived and is growing with us as we inch toward spring.

Inspire!

- Inspire your community with a Ministry Plan for 2019 that is co-ordinated with the “categories” of the ministry in your congregation – outreach, pastoral care, learning and worship. A first step might be to develop a one-page [Narrative Budget!](#)
- If you are a cheerful giver and you tithe, share your story to inspire others. Practice living generously – one month at a time. Propose that people try tithing for one month (10% of either total monthly income or take-home income) to see how it feels.
- Begin the year with a focus on stewarding our time. Time is a finite resource. Explore resources like [this one](#) from [Stewardship](#) on developing a spiritual practice for living faithfully with our hours, days and weeks, or Google “how to steward our time.”

Invite!

- Crack open the new **Called to Be the Church** program when it arrives in your congregation. The focus of Inviting is through a Community Meal (or Meals). There is a [video](#) and step by step assistance in the 2019 version, further exploring the theme of [Loving Our Neighbours](#).
- New year—new role. Invite your key leaders to stretch their skills and try a new thing. Invite them to consider a new ministry this year.
- Plan your year around seasons, highlighting a ministry in your community that aligns with the Biblical message of each of the seasons of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost...

Thank!

- Thank every identifiable giver in January. Invite leadership into the rewarding activity of calling everyone to say “Thank you for helping us serve God’s mission in 2019.” Just a thank you.
- 2018 Tax Receipt – The annual transaction of preparing the income tax receipts can easily be turned into a relationship building communication. Include a positive year-end review of the life of the community in 2018: stories, facts and even pictures. You send an envelope anyway; you might as well fill it with gratitude and inspiration.
- Thank all the people who have volunteered in governance and leadership positions in 2018. They have likely put in many hours and shared their skills. Honour them before the Annual Meeting.

Ongoing

Ensure that all donations to Mission & Service have been forwarded to the General Council Office so that they can continue to impact the world here in Canada and with our global partners.

Thinking ahead: Preparing for February

When will you do your 2019 Giving Program – Lent, before Thanksgiving, after Thanksgiving?

This year’s giving program, **Loving Our Neighbours**, has worship services designed for use in Lent 2019 written by our new Moderator, [the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott](#). On line there are also more services, sermons and Sunday School if you decide to host your giving program either between Labour Day and Thanksgiving or from Thanksgiving to the Reign of Christ.

