



## RUNNING A STEWARDSHIP MARATHON



*"I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith."*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:7**

October 24, 2022

Dear Members & Friends:

During my lifetime I have probably gone for a run more than 3,000 times, but only a couple dozen 'organized runs' stand out. It has been a long time since I ran the last of these road races, but I can still remember the excitement and rush of adrenaline as I waited with the other runners for the start of the race. I had no expectations of winning any of these races, but I believed that running in a group of other runners, many faster than me, would push me to run harder than I could do running by myself. And I was never disappointed. My times were always faster than I could ever do running alone. I was always pushed to do my best in the race.

"Running a Stewardship Marathon" was chosen as this year's pledge drive theme to emphasize that Stewardship is a long-term commitment (a long-distance race, not a sprint) and each one of us is called to be a good steward by personally running this race. And like the many years when I went for runs almost every day, we are called to be good stewards each and every day. Like my own experience in organized races, there are times when running with others can push us to do our best in the race. Our annual Stewardship Pledge drive is such a time; a time when we come together as a church family to share our hopes and dreams for the future and to encourage one another to be generous with our time and financial support.

This year's pledge drive/race will begin on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. To increase excitement and get the adrenaline flowing, we are asking each of you to symbolically enter this year's race by coming each Sunday during the pledge drive (in person or on-line) dressed in your finest "athleisure" wear, including sneakers, tees or your favorite sweatshirt that reminds you of running or working out (kids too). Race day (Oct. 30) begins with breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 (Swedish Pancakes, whip cream and strawberries) followed by the single 10:00 am worship service. Pledge/race packets can be picked up after the service or they will be mailed to you.

Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to financially support the work of our church remembering that doing the best you can is all that is asked.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,

Paul Negstad