Ed Szeligowski, stewardship testimony, Nov. 1, 2026.

Why is CSL so important to me -- My family has been attending CSL since 1990. **The church has always been there for me and my family, meeting our needs, and a steady pillar in our lives.** We were initially drawn to the beauty of this gothic church, but Jim Sell and Win Lewis warmly welcomed us. We love the service with the beauty of the liturgy and the music. With a military background, the church family quickly became our family. We were blessed with the deep friendships and relationships we developed with others in the congregation. CSL is a warm and affirming church where all are welcomed. We have grown and benefited from the wonderful preaching and the Christian Formation programs. We enjoy the first Thursday pot-luck suppers, and I look forward to the Men's Group activities.

My wife, Robyn, and I have always tried to be active in the church based on where we were being fed. Ten years into our marriage, Jim Sell counseled me on the error of being DINKs, and that we needed to start a family. When we were younger and had small children, we were active in youth ministries and Sunday School. We ran the Angel Tree for three years; I even bore "wings" speaking from this very podium. Our daughters, Morgan & Taylor were baptized and confirmed here, and our daughter, Taylor, was married here. Now we share this wonderful church with our grandsons, ZJ & Matthew.

Working at NNSY as a senior manager, I never had time to volunteer like I would like to. So after retiring, I told God that he owned me and my time. I have been part of the Stephen Ministry program and active in the Journeying thru Grief book series. I am proudly the coordinator of the Thursday Lunch Ministry program. I get great satisfaction working in these ministries and helping others. For me, serving in these capacities of mission work is the "tip of the spear" of what Jesus asks us to do. We all do God's work thru our ministry programs and other volunteer work, but whatever we do to serve the Lord, we need to be refreshed, renewed at Church on Sunday thru the friendships, liturgy, and beautiful music to continue serving the Lord and assisting others in the congregation and in the community.

My family supports the church with our time, talent, and treasure to give back to God, who has so richly blessed us. We seek to strengthen our relationship with the Lord, Jesus. My family tithes to support the mission, programs, ministries, and the staff of CSL. This church and all the programs and ministries would not be possible without everyone's financial support. This church and all of you mean so much to my family. We joyfully make our financial pledge with a grateful heart to the honor and glory of God.

So what is your personal story … we have all benefited from the beautiful worship and music, along with the great programs and ministries of CSL. We are all blessed by our church family, and

in our lives by God's generosity and love. Please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to support the church and to give back to God.

May God bless you.