

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 8:15AM

MEET US

Our family is loved by Christ and we love each other. We hold firmly to God's Word of truth, which convicts us of our sin and comforts us with God's forgiveness in Christ. We embrace the rich heritage of hymns and liturgy that has guided the worship of the Church for generations. We are passionate about Christian education, wanting young and old to grow in their knowledge of God's Word. As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), we enjoy fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today, we begin a 3-week series on stewardship. Stewardship is our Christian life. Because we are both saint and sinner, we struggle to manage all that God has given us. Christian stewardship is an act of faith and therefore grows from the heart of the believer. God bless your study of this important teaching. Please come again soon.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Restrooms are located to the right as you leave the sanctuary and are equipped with child changing tables.

Parent Room is located on the left as you exit the sanctuary doors. This room is equipped with a livestream of the service.

For the hearing impaired, an induction loop is provided. Just switch your hearing aid to "T".

For other special needs or questions, our ushers are here to assist you. Don't hesitate to ask.

1010
for

Week One

OPEN HEARTS

Firstfruits Giving



DIVINE SERVICE

WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

OPENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN

We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer | ELH 466

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

RESPONSES

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Psalm 24:1; 145:1,3,4,13

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Lord God, heavenly Father, we humbly come before You today knowing that we have failed to speak lovingly, think purely, or act rightly. We have sinned against You and against others...

...in wasting the precious time You give us.

...in our slowness and hesitancy to spread Your Gospel.

...in the faithful care of our relationships.

...in our restless and relentless preoccupation with worldly wealth.

...in caring for the bodies and minds You have given us.

...in our refusal to make You our first priority.

Hear our confession, for we have sinned and are in need of Your mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

HYMN

Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth | ELH 447:1-2

PRAYER

O Lord, giver of life and source of all love, we know that all we have received comes from Your gracious hand. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send Your Holy Spirit to work through us, that many more might come to know the saving riches of Your Son. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Your Son in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Evangelical Heritage Version © 2019

LESSON

Build the Lord's House | Haggai 1:1-11

¹In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ²This is what the LORD of Armies says. This people has said, "It is not the right time for the House of the LORD to be built." ³So the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet. ⁴Is it time for you to live in your paneled houses while this house lies in ruins? ⁵Now this is what the LORD of Armies says. Consider your ways carefully. ⁶You sow much seed but you harvest little. You eat but you are never satisfied. You drink but you never become drunk. You get dressed, but no one is warm. The one who makes money puts that money into a bag with a hole in it. ⁷This is what the LORD of Armies says. Consider your ways carefully. ⁸Go up to the mountains, bring lumber down, and build the House. I will be pleased with it, and I will be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹You expected much, but look, there was little. When you brought it home, I blew it away. Why

did I do that? This is a declaration of the LORD of Armies. It is because my house lies in ruins while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰So it is because of you that the heavens have withheld the dew and the earth has withheld its produce. ¹¹I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the olive oil, on everything which the soil produces, on people, on livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.

PSALM OF THE DAY

CW Psalm 145



Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;*
his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation will commend your works to another,*
they will tell of your mighty acts.

The LORD upholds all those who fall*
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Refrain

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.*
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

The LORD is near to all who call on him,*
to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desires of those who fear him,*
he hears their cry and saves them.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

GOSPEL

The rich fool | Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.” ¹⁶He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.”’ ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’ ²¹“That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

What Is the World to Me | ELH 446:1-4, 8

SERMON

Giving to God Doesn’t Make a Bit of Sense! | Haggai 1:1-11

BIBLE STUDY: FIRSTFRUITS GIVING

I. INTRODUCTION

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? When you heard that we would be talking about stewardship for three weeks, what was your response?

It is easy to think of “stewardship” as being a discussion about money. Consider the following quote:

Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us—and what we do with it.

(Randy Alcon in Money, Possessions, and Eternity, p. 140)

**Stewardship = Management of the _____ of the
_____ + _____ + _____ + _____**

If “stewardship is the Christian life,” why will a modern stewardship study need to focus on money, perhaps more than ever before in history?

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Complete: Stewardship does not just give the LORD honor. It demonstrates that we _____ him.

II. FIRSTFRUIT BASICS

**The focus of firstfruits giving is not
the _____ but the _____.**

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

When God calls for firstfruits giving in that passage, what is the amount he asks for?

Deuteronomy 26:8-10

So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me.

Again, no amount is stipulated for this firstfruits offering. What is stressed is the attitude. How would you characterize the attitude of the Israelite when he brought his firstfruits offerings?

Mark 10:21-22

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

This man had claimed to follow all of God's law. Was God actually *first* in his life? Give the reason for your answer.

The focus of firstfruits giving is not on

_____ but on _____.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Do you believe the passages above are literally true? If so, how does that have to affect the way you approach stewardship?

John 1:2

He [Jesus] was with God [the Father] in the beginning.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What do these passages teach us about how God gives.

God gave us his _____ and gave us his _____.

Romans 7:18

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Galatians 5:24

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

These passages teach:

- *Through my sinful nature, _____ assures that God will always come anywhere but first.*

- *Through the Spirit we are _____ to give in a way that glorifies God— Creator, Savior, Spirit. As God’s children, he comes first!*

The Challenge

If you are not in the spiritual habit of giving to the Lord first, it is time to reconsider that habit. The First Commandment dictates that we are to *fear, love and trust in God above all things*. Firstfruits giving helps us do exactly that. It tangibly puts God first.

III. NEWS AND NOTES

- Every member will receive a *10 for 10* commitment card. Keep it in a safe place and begin to pray about it. Do not fill it out yet! Instead, this first week, invest yourself in praying about why you do or do not practice firstfruits giving. If you do, is your attitude correct? If you do not, ask yourself: does God ever command something that isn’t meant to be a blessing for me? *“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10)*. That’s God’s promise to you!
- Over the next couple weeks, we will talk about how to respond to God’s love and grace in our stewardship. At the end of this three-week emphasis members will be asked to fill out those cards, which are a ten-week giving plan.
- Additional devotional material has been/will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.

WE GIVE THANKS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.

Every animal of the forest is yours as well as the cattle on a thousand hills.

Lord, from your hand comes boundless riches.

We thank you, Lord, for making us your stewards. We pray that you will grant us faith so we can please you in our stewardship.

Lord, help us to see the time, the talents, and the financial resources we have are a sacred trust from you.

We ask for your help, Lord, to use all our resources in worthwhile activities that will give you honor and praise.

Lord, help us to spend time in your Word and in prayer that you might nourish the faith you give us.

Please change us, Lord, from fear and selfishness to trust and generosity.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

Help us, Lord, to be wise and fruitful stewards of the opportunities that you give us to use our gifts.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image | ELH 593

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist

Katie Hartwig

Ushers

Tim Paulsen & Nick Peters

Seth Grabow & Dan Holz

Refreshments

Peace Group 3

FOR ALL 7TH -12TH GRADERS

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

MT. OLIVE, PEACE, & NORSELAND
YOUTH & FRIENDS



SUNDAY, SEPT. 25TH, 12:30PM-3:30PM
THEATRE PHYSICS + PIZZA + DEVOTION
DROP OFF & PICK UP @ BLC YFAC

SUNDAY, OCT. 3RD, 4:30PM-6:30PM
BLC JAZZ BAND CONCERT + DEVOTION + FOOD
DROP OFF & PICK UP @ BLC YFAC



SUNDAY, OCT. 10TH, TIMES TBD
HAYRIDE + BONFIRE + DEVOTION + FOOD
CARPOOLING TO OLSEN FARM, NICOLLET, MN

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT PR. MATTHEW MOLDSTAD

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Divine Service	8:15am
Bible Story Time	9:15am
Sunday School	9:25am
Bible Class	9:30am
Divine Service	10:30am
Hebrew Club	1:00pm

TUESDAY

Solid Grounds	9:00am
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WEDNESDAY

Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
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THURSDAY

M.O.M.s Bible Study	8:30am
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FRIDAY

Men's Bible Study	6:30am
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NEWS & NOTES

For more detailed information concerning our news & notes, visit peacemankato.com/news

BIBLE STORY TIME **Sundays | 9:15am**

For our youngest children (and all!). In the 4-6th grade classroom right after 1st service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE **Sundays | 9:25am**

9:25 - Music in the PreK room for all students.

9:40 - Students in their assigned classrooms.

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS **Wednesdays | 6:00pm**

Interested in singing in the Adult Choir? Contact Katie at mnhartwigs@gmail.com or 507-382-7566.

SECRET SISTER

To participate please fill out a form, located in the narthex, by Friday, Oct. 8th. Any questions please contact Rachel: rmoldstad@gmail.com.

GROUPS PAGE **peacemankato.com/groups**

Group 4 can now sign up for October coffee and treats. We have the challenge of 5 Sundays to cover.

BAKE SALE FOR MISSIONS **October 3**

After services. Please bring something to sell and/or buy something. Questions? – Karen at 507-514-0639.

BLC THEATRE PHYSICS **9/24-26 | blc.edu/box-office**

JOIN PEACE LUTHERAN FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

Free and open to the public! All activities will take place outside and includes decorated trunks, pick a pumpkin, fun forest, hayrides, photo op, cake walk, free raffle, and corn pit. Concessions available inside for purchase. Sign up your trunk at peacemankato.com/trunks or in the narthex. Each decorated car asked to provide your own candy to hand out to treaters. Small surprise for participating.

2021 CHARGER CHALLENGE – 10/1

Join us! Volunteer at a cheering station along the route! Sponsor our students! Contact Kristen Lukasek for info to do any of the above – mattlukasek@yahoo.com

ELS/WELS SINGLES – MEET UP

At Montgomery Orchard, 11am on 10/9. Corn maze, walking trails, apple picking, etc. Stay as long as you like. Going? Let Rachel know - rmoldstad@gmail.com

JESUS' LAMBS AT PEACE PRE-K

2-, 3- or 5-day sessions **Ages 3-5**
Director: Joslyn Moldstad **507-385-7752**
peacemankato.com/preschool

CONTACT US

Office: 507-385-1386 Pastors:
Tim Hartwig & Matt Moldstad
karen@peacemankato.com

