

# WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – OCTOBER 3, 2021

## 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

Jesus watched the people bringing their offerings to the temple. He judged the quality of the gift in relationship to the wealth that the person possessed. The widow, in great faith, gave all that she had to the Lord. Her gift reflected what God had promised to do for her. God has now fulfilled the promise and given His all and His best, Jesus, to rescue us from sin, death and hell.

## 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 Three

**OPEN HANDS**

*Sacrificial Giving*



# DIVINE SERVICE

## WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, all that I have comes from You: my body and mind, my strength and intelligence, my time and abilities, my energy and possessions. Guard me from the temptation to use these gifts only for my personal benefit. Make me willing to use them joyfully and sacrificially in service to You and to Your people. Amen.

### HYMN

Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us | ELH 459:1-3

### 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.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.**

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Follow God's example as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love.**

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

**You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.**

*Psalm 24:1; Psalm 57:5; Ephesians 5:1,2; Hebrews 9:2 8; Psalm 118:28*

### 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.**

*Silence for personal reflection*

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

**Lord of live, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from Your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

**HYMN**

Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth | ELH 447:1, 5

**PRAYER**

O Lord, giver of life and source of all love, we know that all we have received comes from Your gracious hand. You call us to be stewards of Your bounty, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. 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

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**LESSON**

Finish the Collection | 2 Corinthians 8:1-9


<sup>1</sup>Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: <sup>2</sup>In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. <sup>3</sup>I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, <sup>4</sup>pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. <sup>5</sup>And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the

Lord and then to us. <sup>6</sup>As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. <sup>7</sup>But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift. <sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

8:15 – PSALM


Psalms 73 | CW p. 94

*Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Psalm tone*



I am always with *you*, O LORD;\*  
you hold me by my *right* hand.

You guide me with your *counsel*,\*  
and afterward you will take me into *glory*.

Whom have I in heavén but you?\*

And earth has nothing I desire *besides* you.

My flesh and my *heart* may fail,\*  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

**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*

**10:30 - PRESCHOOL CHILDREN**

Jesus Loves Me | ELH 179:1-2

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty | ELH 15:1

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**First Article of the Apostle's Creed**

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

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

**HYMN**

Take My Life and Let It Be | ELH 444

**SERMON**

Does Jesus Really Watch My Wealth? | Mark 12:41-44

<sup>41</sup>Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and was watching how the crowd put money into it. Many rich people put in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>One poor widow came and put in two small bronze coins, worth less than a penny. <sup>43</sup>He called his disciples together and said to them, "Amen I tell you: This poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. <sup>44</sup>For they all gave out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all that she had to live on.

**OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

**OFFERING HYMN**

We Give Thee But Thine Own | ELH 445:1-2

## BIBLE STUDY: SACRIFICIAL GIVING

### I. INTRODUCTION

A quick review of where we have been the last two weeks:

*Firstfruits giving:* Giving is a key \_\_\_\_\_ because I love and trust God.

*Proportional giving:* Stewardship includes prayerfully considering how much of God's money I need to \_\_\_\_\_.

This week we turn our attention to *sacrificial giving*, which is giving in a way that, to human reason, seems to be beyond one's means. It is giving *beyond one's regular firstfruits, proportional giving*. The cynical sinner in us would love to write off the topic of sacrificial giving as an exercise in "getting blood from a turnip." Yet, when we look at Scripture, we see that sacrificial gifts were never made under compulsion, but out of cheer; never out of fear, but out of faith; never out of obligation, but because there was an opportunity provided by God's providence.

Ironically, Americans are accustomed to *living* beyond their means. The average U.S. household is carrying over \$7,000 in credit card debt. Add to that an average household debt of \$28,000 for cars and another \$48,000 for student loans. So, we live beyond our income, assuming we will be able to handle that debt in the future. Yet, God has not promised us the next paycheck. Nowhere in Scripture does God promise the college graduate a high-paying job. There are exactly zero divine promises that would encourage us to be comfortable *living* beyond our means. But what about *giving* in a way that seems beyond our means?

#### **Malachi 3:10**

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

What promise does the LORD give to the children of Israel there?

Let us look at how our generous God empowers His children to imitate His generosity through sacrificial giving.

## II. GOD ENABLES PEOPLE TO DO AMAZING THINGS

### Matthew 21:21

*Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.*

### Romans 10:17

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

In Matthew 21, Jesus teaches us that if it was God's will that a mountain would throw itself into the sea, we should have faith that mountain will obey our command. Obviously, it is *not* God's will that mountains jump into the sea. It *is* His will that His children give generous offerings. Combine that with God's promise in Romans 10:17. Together, we have heard God's message on these important stewardship topics. Therefore, of what can we be confident?

### John 15:5

*Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Notice Jesus doesn't say that if we remain in Him we *should* bear much fruit or we *might* bear much fruit. He says we *will*. How can He speak so confidently?

### The Point?

God is neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor a \_\_\_\_\_. If he asks us to do things that are impossible, he then gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to do that which he has asked.

When Jesus told Peter "Come!" He was asking Peter to do that which is impossible—walking on water. But the word of Christ gave Peter the ability to do the impossible. While Peter's faith fixed itself upon the promise, he was able to do the unthinkable. "*Apart from me you can do nothing.*" It is only when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at his situation that he sank. We are *the family of the Father* who are filled with *faith*. When our God asks us to do something, we can trust He will give us the ability to do what He has asked. That is true when it comes to giving. Some examples...

## ***The Widow Who Didn't Have Two Dimes to Rub Together***

### **Mark 12:41-44**

*<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

Amazing things we see:

- The widow gave \_\_\_\_\_ % of what she had.
- In God's ledger book, a fraction of a \_\_\_\_\_ can be more than thousands of dollars.
- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ what people give.

## ***Poor As Dirt, Yet Serving the Saints***

### **2 Corinthians 8:2-4**

*<sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.*

Circle the best answer. For the Macedonian churches, giving was:

- a. like pulling teeth.
- b. something that they might find some use for.
- c. a privilege they pleaded for.

Circle the best answer. When it came to the amount of their gifts:

- a. It was just enough to keep Pastor Paul from sending a member of the Stewardship Committee to their homes.
- b. It was pretty respectable considering they didn't have much.
- c. It was shocking because God blessed them "to give even beyond their ability."



## The Point?

Giving is not a \_\_\_\_\_ of the rich, but a \_\_\_\_\_ for the poor.

When it comes to giving, the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_, is what counts in God's sight.

### III. PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

- \_\_\_\_\_ giving teaches that giving to God comes first, because we are to *fear, love, and trust in him above all things*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ giving teaches that we give to God a pre-determined percentage of our wealth. Tithing, or giving ten percent, has served as a biblical benchmark for proportionate giving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ giving teaches that we may, in joy, give over and above our regular, proportional gifts.

#### *Questions to Prayerfully Consider This Week*

- As I produce our ten-week giving plan, how will I demonstrate that God comes first? What is the Spirit empowering me to produce in the way of firstfruits giving?
- What is the proportion of my income the Spirit will enable me to return to God over the next ten weeks? How much of God's blessings do I need to keep for myself to live and have a satisfying life? How much does He allow me to give back?
- How will Christ's sacrifice and His promises enable me to be sacrificial in my giving?

### IV. NEWS AND NOTES

- Next weekend your commitment cards will be gathered during the offering.
- One last reminder: Your commitment cards will not be opened. They will be placed near the altar for ten weeks and then returned to you unopened for your prayerful reflection.
- Please do not place offerings in your *10 for 10* commitment envelopes. The only thing that goes in that envelope is your giving plan.

- Additional devotional material has been/will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.
- Throughout the ten weeks of *10 for 10*, we will receive additional encouragements from God’s Word. Why? *“If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”*

## WE GIVE THANKS

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### 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

God Loves Me Dearly | ELH 175

## WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist

Lexi Fosburgh

Ushers

Tim Paulsen & Nick Peters

Seth Grabow & Dan Holz

Refreshments

Peace Group 4



Sign up your trunk at [peacemankato.com/trunks](http://peacemankato.com/trunks) or in the narthex.  
Each decorated car asked to provide your own candy to hand out to treaters.

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex to volunteer for the event.

Drop off donated 'emergency candy' in the monster box in the narthex.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### SUNDAY

Sale for Missions after services  
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  
Youth – BLC Jazz Band 4:30pm

### TUESDAY

Solid Grounds 9:00am  
Gospel Outreach 5:00pm  
Board of Education 6:00pm  
Spiritual Leadership 7:00pm

### WEDNESDAY

Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm

### THURSDAY

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

### SATURDAY

ELS/WELS Singles 11:00am

### SUNDAY

Youth Hayride 3:30pm

## NEWS & NOTES

For more detailed information concerning our news & notes, visit [peacemankato.com/news](http://peacemankato.com/news)

### BIBLE STORY TIME

Sundays | 9:15am

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

### YOUTH EVENTS

BLC Jazz Band, Devotion, Food Oct 3 | 4:30pm

Hayride, Bonfire, Devotion, Food Oct 10 | 3:30pm

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY BREAK

Oct 17 | 9:30am

Due to our New Member reception that day, we will not have the adult Bible Study to allow for a fellowship time between the services. Sunday School & CROSSED will still meet.

### MISSION RALLY AT MT. OLIVE

Oct 23 | 9:00am

Sign-up by 10/10. Sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Everyone is invited. Child care & activities provided. Information about the day and Service Project are posted on both bulletin boards.

### SECRET SISTER

To participate please fill out a form, located in the narthex, by Friday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. Any questions please contact Rachel: [rmoldstad@gmail.com](mailto:rmoldstad@gmail.com).

## BAKE SALE FOR ELS MISSIONS - TODAY

Stop by the tables in the narthex after both services today to purchase items from the bake sale and wreath making. Items available for a free-will donation.

If you don't wish to purchase anything, please stop and make a donation to help support God's work through our ELS Home and World Missions.

## LUTHERAN PIONEER FALL EVENT

Sunday, Oct. 3, 3-5pm at the NEY Nature Center. \$5 per person. No need to be a Pioneer member to attend. Registration required: [ney-nature-center-4.square.site](http://ney-nature-center-4.square.site)

## 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](mailto: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](http://peacemankato.com/preschool)

## CONTACT US

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