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CELEBRATE THE HARVEST: 10 FOR 10
JOYFUL HEARTS—FIRST-FRUITS GIVING
October 5, 6, and 9, 2019

Christ's willing sacrifice for us is our motivation and inspiration to give back to God. Today we celebrate the generosity that flows from joyful hearts.

PRESERVICE HYMN SING

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 256, vv. 1, 3, 4

How Great Thou Art

M The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus teaches us not to worry, to be content, and to trust that he will generously provide for all our needs.

C **Yet we find ourselves in a constant struggle with our old sinful nature. We doubt God's promises. We worry about the future. We believe the lie that we would be happier if we just had a little more.**

M Let us, therefore, acknowledge the truth, confess our sin, and ask God to forgive us.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade" (1 Peter 1:3,4). For while the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature.

C **Help us remember your loving care. Give us thankful hearts. Let your goodness flow through us to the world around us.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

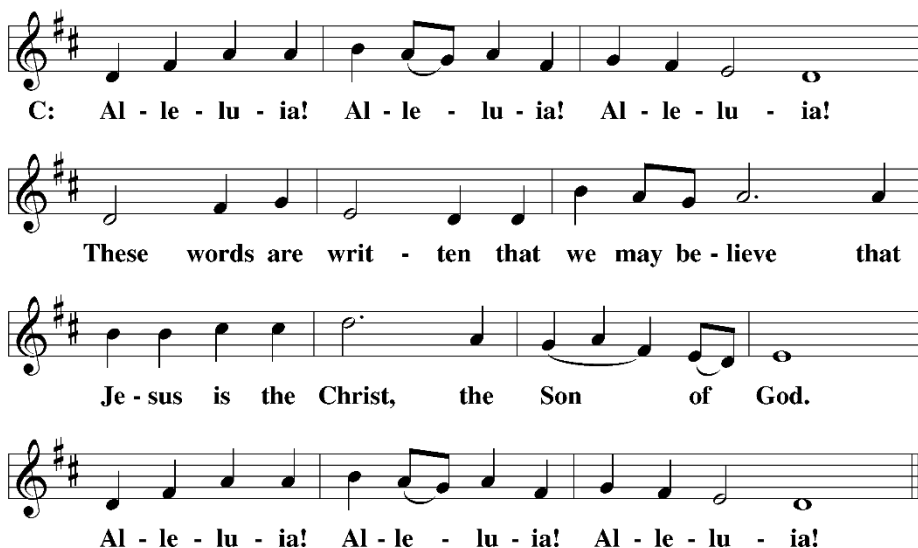
C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 145, Bible page 624

We celebrate God's abundant goodness and joyfully sing of his righteousness and faithfulness.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21, Bible page 1043

What good is it if I gain the whole world, yet forfeit my soul?

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY 482

Forgive Us, Lord

SERMON

Haggai 1:1-15, Bible page 946

Pastor Peter Panitzke

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 will 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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Sunday 7:45 am*)

We Give You but Your Own, *Children's Choir*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord of our lives, by sending your Son to live and die as our perfect substitute, you provided forgiveness and salvation for a world of sinners.

C **We praise you for your generous saving love.**

M Gracious Father, remind us that you have called us to live for you and not for ourselves.

C **Help us devote our time, our talents, our energy, to those things that will be of value for eternity.**

M Help us to love you and others and to use things as you desire, instead of loving things and trying to use you and others for our own selfish desires.

C **May our hearts belong to you completely, so that our lives can be devoted to things that really matter.**

M Bless all who are suffering and in need. Be with the lonely and the grief-stricken.

C **Move us to use the unique gifts you have given to us to bring comfort and help to those in need.**

M Bless the government and the Church, and make us blessings to both.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Crush the selfishness that comes to us naturally, and fill us with joyful generosity.

C **Grant that the gifts we bring to you may show that we are just as diligent and just as interested in carrying out your business as we are in carrying out our own.**

M We dare to ask all this, Father, not because we deserve to ask it but because your Son has earned for us the right to approach you as your dear children.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 469

Take My Life and Let It Be

CLOSING PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *(Sunday) Pastor David Kuehl*

ORGANIST *Carol Nelson*



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of October 7, 2019

MON	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
TUE	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study (Faith Room)
	9:30 am	Ministerial Team Strategic Planning Meeting
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	12:00 pm	Organization for Wisconsin Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) (Grace Room)
	6:00 pm	<i>DivorceCare</i> (School Classroom 8)
	6:30 pm	Handbells Rehearsal (Church Balcony)
	7:00 pm	<i>Following the Promise</i> Bible Study (Faith Room)
	7:30 pm	Festival Choir Rehearsal
WED	9:30 am	Mommy and Me (Faith Room)
	4:30 pm	Public School Confirmation Classes
	6:30 pm	Financial Peace University (Grace Room)
	7:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)
	10:00 am	Walking Club (Trinity Gym)
	7:00 pm	The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)
	1:00 pm	Wedding of Justin Wauer and Alison Huebner (at The Domes)
	6:00 pm	Sheepshead Tournament (Trinity Café)
	5:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
SUN	7:45 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	8:00 am	Festival Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 am	<i>Following the Promise</i> (School Classroom 8)
	9:15 am	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Grace Room Bible Study
	9:15 am	Kids Club
	9:45 am	The Bridge Communion
	10:15 am	The Bridge
	10:45 am	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion



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10 FOR 10

Our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod produced our series “10 for 10.” The goal of the series is to help us giving with three words in mind: first fruits, proportionate,



Plan for Giving

The program encourages us to consider tithing (giving 10% of income) for 10 weeks, beginning October 27. Next weekend you will receive an information packet and a Plan-for-Giving card. You are asked to return the card by October 27 and place it into the offering. These plans will be placed on the altar unopened as a covenant between you and God. At the beginning of 2020, they will be mailed to you so that you can evaluate your own progress in giving.

Why a Tithe (10%)?

Old Testament believers were required to tithe as a matter of law. New Testament believers may practice tithing as an expression of their Christian freedom. Here are a few thoughts about giving in general and tithing in particular.

1. **Believers practiced tithing long before God commanded tithing.** God's promises worked powerfully in the lives of Abraham and Jacob. In thanks, they offered God a tithe of their possessions: "Then Abram gave him (Melchizedek the Priest) a tenth of everything" (Genesis 14:20). Jacob vowed, "of all that you give me I will give you a tenth" (Genesis 28:22).
2. **God commanded Old Testament believers to tithe.** In an age when most people lived a hand-to-mouth existence, God commanded his Old Testament believers to offer the tithe as an exercise of faith (Leviticus 27:30). In our age of relative affluence, could we be in a prime position to give more than a tithe?
3. **Tithing helps us revere God.** Moses told the people of Israel that through tithing they would learn to revere God (Deuteronomy 14:22-23). It helps us to revere him as our gracious Father in heaven - not just with words, but in actions.
4. **Tithing helps show gratitude to God.** "What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me" (Psalm 116:12)? Generous gifts are a Spirit-inspired response to the treasure we have in Christ.
5. **Tithing helps establish a habit of giving.** Regular tithing prevents giving from becoming something that is "hit or miss."
6. **God promises to bless those who give faithfully.** God promised his Old Testament believers that he would pour out so much blessing that there would not be room enough to store it (Malachi 3:10). Ours is a God who knows how to give good gifts to his children (Matthew 7:11)!
7. **Tithing gives glory to God and shows love to our neighbor.** Tithing has been freely used by God's people for over 4,000 years. In so doing, God has been praised, the gospel has been furthered, the Church has prospered, the needy have been helped, and greed has given way to generosity!

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FUNERAL

Eugene Eckoldt, born June 20, 1944, entered eternal peace and joy with his Savior on October 1, 2019. The visitation will be at Heritage Funeral Home in New Berlin on Sunday, October 13, 11:00-1:00 pm, with the service immediately following. A reception will follow in the Trinity Café, 2:30 – 5:00 pm. May our God of all comfort and hope be with the loved ones of Gene today and always.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Carol Beyer, David Burkowitz, Steve Drobka, Carol Gosseck, Connie Hikade, Barbara Luedtke, Josh Nagel, Mary Schauwitzer, Carol Smith, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Dick and Jane Sternberg.

HOSPITALIZED

Lois Guhr is in hospice care at The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc and Marilyn Miller at Elder Care Cottages in Tichigan. Dora Jahnke is at Waukesha Memorial. Nancy Plamann has been discharged from the hospital.

ATTENDANCE

963 attended worship services last week.

SUNDAY MORNING KIDS CLUB



Kids Club features a large group opening followed by small group discussion to help your child apply God's word to their lives through upbeat, interactive and fun lessons. All grade levels (3k – grade 6) meet in the school. Enter through the Trinity Café and you will receive directions for your child's room location. For more information visit our website or contact Dr. Joel Nelson.

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE

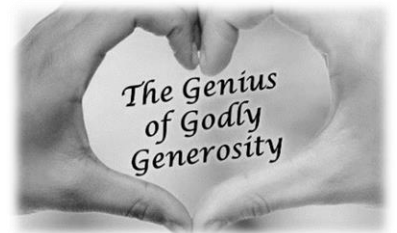
Two opportunities are available to join in on this study:

- Sundays, 8:00-9:00 am, 12 weeks remaining
- Tuesdays, 7:00-8:15 pm, 10 weeks remaining

Wide-open discussion will challenge you to rethink deeply the promises of our God. Non-members are welcome to use this class as a path to membership at the end, or just as a chance to connect with the God of the Bible. Tuesday classes meet in the Faith Room at church, Sunday classes in Room 8 in the school. Register on the back of your Connection Card. It will be a joy!

NEW GRACE ROOM SERIES FOR OCTOBER

What Is the Genius of Godly Generosity? starts this week, focusing on Scripture's teaching of Christ-centered generosity. Explore the transformation this generosity can bring to our lives and to St. Paul's ministry as we seek to bring as many people as possible with us to heaven. St. Paul's School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons is presenting this study the Sundays of October, 9:15-10:15 am, in the Grace Room.



LADIES MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study meets in the Faith Room at 9:00. All ladies are welcome. For more information contact Group Leader Michele Eiche at (414) 202-7522.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

WELCOME HOME WORSHIP SERIES—OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 28

If you read the Bible and count each time believers are called “brothers and sisters,” you’ll reach triple digits quite quickly. It’s clear the Holy Spirit wants us to think of each other as family. We understand the important roles moms and dads play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. But these relationships are only temporary; blood relatives are taken away from us by death. Our loving heavenly Father wants us to know that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. In fact, the companionship we enjoy with our spiritual brothers and sisters will last for eternity. In our *Welcome Home* worship series, beginning October 27, we’ll celebrate how our Father in heaven knits us together into a spiritual family, we’ll see the benefits of being part of this family and we’ll rejoice that God has given us a family where all are welcome. Think of someone to invite now!

WELCOME
Home

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A SECOND SITE

Approximately 125 people attended our open forums regarding a mission opportunity. Read more about it in *The Messenger* available at the Welcome Center. The Ministry Board will discuss your comments and the results of the simple questionnaire at their October 17 meeting. May God grant us wisdom to know what is best.

LATEST MALAWI MISSION PARTNER COMMUNIQUE AVAILABLE

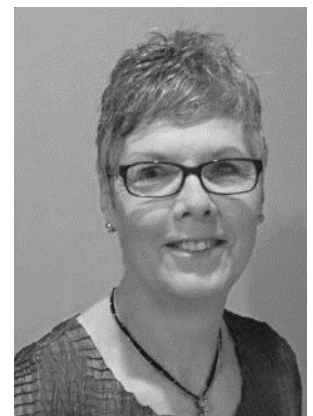
Pick up the latest Mission Partner Communique from Pastor John Holtz, a son of our congregation and a missionary in Malawi. Your gifts designated “Malawi Mission Partner” provide the synod with approximately 1/3 of the funds necessary to provide for Pastor Holtz’s on-going mission work in Malawi.

Thank you to all of you who stopped by the Under the Canopy last Sunday to hear about the mission trips taken by many of our members to Africa this summer. It was a pleasure to share our stories. Thank you also for the donations that will go to support the Vulnerable Children’s Foundation and WELS Kingdom Workers.

LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Nadine Steger is St. Paul’s contact reporter for the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society. As our contact reporter Nadine serves as the communication link for all LWMS information and happenings. She is eager to work with the ladies of the congregation in promoting mission awareness. Please contact her with any questions you might have at (262) 679-1997.

The fall rally for the Milwaukee Metro South Circuit of LWMS will be held on Saturday, October 26, at St. Paul’s in Franklin. The Hmong outreach efforts in Vietnam will be the topic presented by the mission speaker, Rev. Paul Prange. Registration information along with a schedule for the day can be picked up at the Welcome Center in the lobby.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

OWLS – ORGANIZATION FOR WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SENIORS

Bring a bag lunch to the Grace Room on October 8 at noon, enjoy some social time, and hear Chaplain Mark Wenzel speak on our church body's ministry to the institutionalized. Contact Charlene Pingel at (262) 490-2579 for more information.

MOMMY & ME

Moms of children newborn through age 5, consider joining St. Paul's social, spiritual, and service oriented group - *Mommy & Me*. The group meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:00, in the Faith Room. Contact Samantha Lindner for additional details at (989) 284-2854.

DIVORCECARE

Discover hope and healing out of the darkness of divorce through God's Word, Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, in school classroom 8. If you are not able to make it every Tuesday, that is alright. Just come when you can.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT – OCTOBER 12

St. Paul's annual Sheepshead Tournament is Saturday, October 12, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, in the Trinity Café and Gym. Entry fee is \$5 per person to offset the cost of food and prizes. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center with more information, including how to reserve your spot.



ST. PAUL'S GLOW FUN RUN / WALK

St. Paul's Church and School will host its 2nd annual 5k/1 mile Glow Fun Run/Walk on October 18, 5:30-8:30 pm, on our campus. Get your glow on as you take on the night dressed in neon. Get a team together to run/walk the neon guided course and enter to win the Best Glowed Out award and other fun glow-getter awards. A glow after-party will follow with music, concessions, a Tess Corners firetruck, and more. Pick up registration information at the Welcome Center in the lobby. October 7 registration is the deadline to receive a 2019 Glow Run shirt.

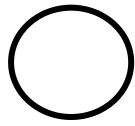


SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS DESIRED FOR UPCOMING FESTIVAL SERVICES

We would love to have you sing in the choir or play in the orchestra at our Reformation and Advent festival services. Please contact Michele Eiche at (414) 202-7522 if interested in singing. Rehearsals are Sundays at 8:00 am and Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, beginning October 6. Please contact Heidi Schuh at (414) 530-4284 if interested in playing in the orchestra. Mass rehearsals will be Wednesday, October 30, at 6:30 pm, and Saturday, November 2, at 9:00 am.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have an immediate need for additional volunteers to serve on our Altar Guild, which helps prepare the church for worship services each week. Please contact Heidi Schuh at 414-530-4284 if you can help.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. What training did you receive in your childhood to be generous? It could be a story about giving at church or generosity toward people in need.

2. **Read Haggai 1:1-11.**
 - a. The Israelites were giving God their “second best.” What evidence did Haggai bring to convict them of this sin?

 - b. What evidence is there that Christians today are giving God their second best?

 - c. Haggai listed the consequences of second-best living for the Israelites. Do you see consequences of second-best living in our homes today?

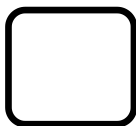
3. **Read Haggai 1:12-15**
 - a. “The people feared the LORD.” Is that fear “terror” or “respect?” Explain.

 - b. “I am with you.” How does that promise help you to be more generous in your every-day life and in your giving through church?

4. **Read Haggai 2:1-9**
 - a. The temple built during Haggai’s time would not be as magnificent as the one built by King Solomon almost 500 years earlier. But this temple would be glorious as the place where the “Desired of all Nations” would walk. Why is that a good title for Jesus?

 - b. “I am with you” (Haggai 2:4). Why do you think the LORD chose to repeat that promise about a month after he already promised it?

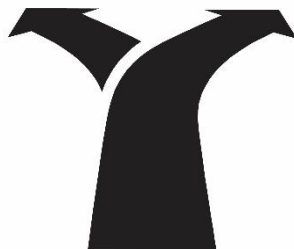
5. Haggai called upon God’s people to put him first. As you think about your own financial offerings, what does it mean to you to put God first, that is, to choose to give him your first fruits?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points



Give Careful Thought to Your Ways

Haggai 1:1-15, Bible page 946

Historical Introduction: Four Months Can Change Your Life, Your Church, Your Nation
– August to November 520 BC

1. The consequences of a second-best choice.

- b. A p_____ with holes in it (Haggai 1:5-11).
- c. Everything we touch is d_____ (Haggai 2:10-14; Matthew 15:19-20).

2. The blessings of a first fruits choice.

- a. The Father – “I am with you” (Haggai 1:13) – F_____ is removed.
- b. The Spirit – “The LORD stirred up the spirit of ...” (Haggai 1:14) – P_____ is provided.
- c. The Son – “What is desired by all nations will come” (Haggai 2:7) – P_____ is present.
- d. Lay down the next stone! (Haggai 2:15, 19)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

My Next Steps to a First Fruits Life

- **Read a First Fruits Story:** Read Ezra 5 and 6 for the historical background. Then read Haggai (just two chapters) for God's blessings on a first-fruits choice.
- **Pray about a First Fruits Plan:** On the weekend of October 27, you will be invited to return a 10-week first-fruits plan. This week, examine where you have given God the “second best” in your life and offerings.
- **Seek help for a First Fruits Life:** *Financial Peace University* is a nine-week course designed to help you reach for that first-fruits approach to life. Mark interest on the Connection Card for the next session, the timing of which is yet to be determined.