



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of St. John**

N1904 Church Road
Town of Grover – Peshtigo, Wisconsin
Pastor Sargent—920-228-1061

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

This weekend is the third of a three-week stewardship emphasis titled *Ten for Ten*. In this worship series, we are looking at the daily struggle we all face when two paths are set before us, one by God and the other by this world. Shall we live for this life or the life that is to come? One very obvious way that struggle manifests itself is when we plan our finances.



Sometimes Christians will object, “The pastor talks too much about money!” Their quarrel isn’t really with the pastor, but with their Creator. The Lord speaks to us about worldly wealth and possessions over 2,300 times in his Word. Two weeks ago, we heard that the Lord asks, without apology, to be first in our hearts. The Lord’s position in our heart is to be reflected in our *firstfruits* giving. Last week, we considered the matter of *proportional* giving. What percentage of the Lord’s blessings do we really need to live on? This week, our series concludes by examining what God has to say about *sacrificial* giving.

Adding these three themes together, we see that people will invariably give *beneath their ability* when they fail to put the Bible’s teaching on firstfruits and proportionate giving into practice. Others give *at their ability*. This happens when people, confident in God’s blessing, prayerfully and thoughtfully practice firstfruits and proportional giving. Finally, one can even give *beyond their ability*. That’s the case when God’s people step out in faith and give in a way that, humanly speaking, doesn’t add up. Scripture tells us of people who, even in their poverty, opened up their hands and gave *beyond their ability*. They gave sacrificially, not superficially. How could they do this? They simply trusted in God’s unlimited ability to care for them.

These biblical accounts of *sacrificial* giving are another one of God’s blessings to us. May we hear them, be inspired by them, and—as God gives us opportunity—make them our own story!

Our worth is taking us on this path:

Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)

Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)

Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly | **CW484:1,2**

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

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

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

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

M: 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.

C: 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 & ABSOLUTION

M: 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.

C: ...in our slowness and hesitancy to spread your Gospel.

M: ...in the faithful care of our relationships.

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

M: ...in caring for the bodies and minds you have given us.

C: ...in our refusal to make you our first priority.

Silence for personal reflection

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

C: Lord of life, 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.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

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

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n and earth
5 O Fa - ther, whence all bless - ings come,
With lav - ish wealth be - fore you bow;
O Son, Dis - pens - er of God's store,
Those trea - sures owe to you their birth,
O Spir - it, bear our of - f'ings home—
So rich - ly fur - nished for us now.
Lord, make them yours for - ev - er - more!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

C: Amen.

LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

St. Paul tells us of the Macedonians who, moved by the grace of Jesus Christ, gave sacrificially.

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 73

Page 94 in *Christian Worship*

Jesus commends the confident faith of a widow, faith made evident in her sacrificial giving.

⁴¹ 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. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

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 OF THE DAY

Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver CW489

SERMON

Jesus is Watching!!

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God, giver of all we have and hold as stewards, grant the people of this church a deep and abiding awareness that all things come from you—our health, our incomes, our jobs, our talents and our generous impulse.

C: Send your Holy Spirit to empower us as we swim against the rising tides of materialism, envy, individualism and greed in our culture.

M: When we are tempted to think of money as a private matter, remind us that you have asked for a portion of our income to be returned to you as a symbol of our awareness that all we have has been given by you, and as a sign of our trust that you will continue to provide.

C: Help us in this grace of giving, for you are the lover of our souls.

M: Most Holy Spirit, you breathed life into humanity and gave us various gifts and talents that we might use them for your glory and the common good.

C: Help us to give ourselves to the well-being of others, just as Christ gave himself for our well-being, even unto the cross.

M: Savior Jesus, you gave your disciples the responsibility of taking your gospel to the ends of the earth. Make our congregation generous in the support of missionaries who preach the good news on our behalf in those places we cannot go.

C: Guard them and their families with your holy angels, and bless their labors as it pleases you.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

M: Lord Jesus, we pray in your name, and as you taught.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

We continue with our celebration of the Lord's Supper on page 33 in the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior to Your Table CW310

THE 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us | **CW486:1-2**

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 16, 2020

Pastor Daniel Sargent
Jim Seefeldt
Randy & Brenda Polzin
Aaron & Erin Pape, Joel Rohde

Pastor
Organist
Sunday Greeters
Counting Team

Welcome to All Thank you for joining us in worship today, and a special welcome to our guests who are with us. May the Word and promise of our Lord's love for us in Jesus fill your heart and soul with his peace. If you are a guest with us today, please sign our guest book in the entrance area.

Prayer Requests Please remember the following in your prayers:

*Birthday and wedding anniversary celebrations this week.

contact Pastor Sargent for any prayer requests and to inform him of any family members entering the hospital.

Also, if you would like a special prayer put in the bulletin, please contact Brenda Polzin or email the request to stjohngrover@gmail.com by Thursday mornings.

Communion Announcements Those who desire to attend the Lord's Supper are asked to announce by signing the sheet in the entrance area. We follow the Bible based practice of communing those who are communicant members of our congregation and those who are members of a congregation in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod. If you have any questions about attending the Lord's Supper with us, please ask to speak with our pastor before the time of service. If there is any member who is physically unable to come to the altar, please inform one of the ushers before the time of service, and the pastor will serve you in the pew where you are sitting. It is our custom to kneel when we come to the Lord's Table, but please do not feel obligated to do so if you are physically challenged to do so. We will use the individual cups and the common cup in the Sunday service.

After Church Service TODAY after the service we will be having Dave Fabry Jr. talk briefly with members of the congregation to address the status of our organ and any repairs or improvements it may need.

Then after that, the voters of the congregation will be asked to attend a special meeting for the plans to all a new principal.

Meditations The new meditation books starting March 1, 2020, are available in the rack in back of church. A free-will offering is greatly appreciated to help defray the costs of production.

Seroogy Candy Bars A new batch of Seroogy candy bars are available at the cost of \$1.50 each. Proceeds will be going towards this year's International Youth Group Rally. Thank you for your support!!

2020 Altar Flowers Sign Up A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers for special dates in memory of a loved one or for another special occasion.

Weekly Bulletins You can now find the weekly bulletins on our website (stjohnpeshtigo.org). Go to the website, click on "weekly bulletins", then click on the link for the bulletin.

Changes To better help us keep our records up to date (address changes, landline disconnection, cell phone numbers, family members move, etc), it would be greatly appreciated if you could fill out a form which is located in the rack in back of church. You may return to any usher, Brenda Polzin, or Pastor.

Worship & Daily Devotions on WOCO The worship broadcast on WOCO AM 1260 today (11:00 am) is hosted by St. John, Grover. The daily devotions on WOCO AM (1260) & FM (107.1) this week (Monday-Friday at 9:05 am) are hosted by Christ, Menominee, MI, by Pastor Paul Cole.

Last Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

Those Who Joined Us in Worship (2/9/20)	145
Average Sunday Attendance for the Year (6 weeks)	163
Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	16/13
Sunday School Mission Offering	\$ 9.75

This Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

Today's Ushers: Tom Rohde, Ron Bushmaker, Mitch Bushmaker, Austin Seefeldt (Head Usher – Shane Seefeldt; Assistant – Mitch Bushmaker)

Tuesday	6:30pm	Board of Elders
Wednesday	10:15am	Rennes West Worship
	1:45pm	Rennes East Worship
	4:30pm	Confirmation Class (4:30-6:00pm)
Friday	8:20am	School Chapel Devotion
Sunday	8:30am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	9:30am	Worship Service (K-8 sing) (WELS Connection)
	10:30am	CEA Meeting

Next Sunday's Counting Team: Team "A" - Dan Maedke, Brenda Polzin, Lisa Sargent

Next Sunday's Greeters: Darlene Nohr & Diane Loll

Offerings for the Lord's Work

General Fund Income for 1/19/20, 1/26/20 (2 weeks)	\$ 11,197.13
General Fund Income for 2/2/20 (1 week)	\$ 5,862.69
General Fund Income for 2/9/20 (1 week)	\$ 4,692.02
Total General Fund Income (33 weeks)	\$203,340.81
Budget Needs Weekly at \$7,616.11 (33 weeks)	\$251,331.63
Total Budget Deficit in Offerings	\$ 47,990.82
Borrowed Funds for Current Operating Expense	\$ 41,216.00

Included in General Fund Income Total:

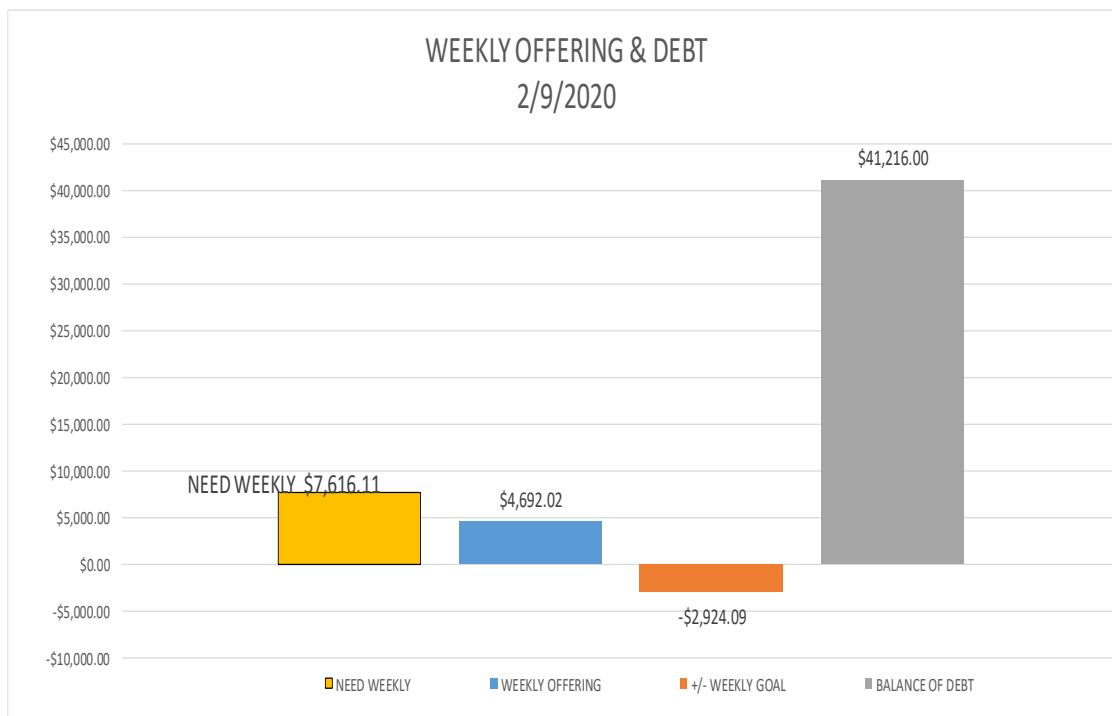
E-giving - \$946.02; Tuition - \$515

Special Gifts & Offerings

Debt Reduction - \$155; Sunday School Missions - \$9.75; LYG - \$93; Church Organ - \$5; Gym/Fellowship/Building - \$5

Memorials & Special Gifts Received:

General Fund - In memory of Joseph Cherney from Janet Glime



School News

- ⇒ This week Tuesday the girls basketball team will play St. Thomas Aquinas Academy at STAA at 5:30. Thursday will be the final games for both the boys and girls teams. They play Faith Christian, Coleman at Trinity, Marinette at 5:00 and 6:00.
- ⇒ Following the close of the boys and girls regular season games 4th - 8th grade students from St. John will begin preparing the the Luther Preparatory School Co-ed Tournament. This tournament hosts WELS schools from all over the country. The tournament is on March 6 & 7.
- ⇒ There is a CEA Meeting on Sunday, February 23 following church. The meeting will be held at the school and we will be serving coffee and donuts. The Christian Education Association is for ALL members of St. John with school age children.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School Staff

<i>Pastor Daniel Sargent</i>	<i>Cell</i>	<i>920-228-1061</i>
	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>dsargentzambia@gmail.com</i>
<i>Lisa Sargent</i>	<i>Cell</i>	<i>920-228-1563</i>
<i>Mr. Lance List, Principal (Grades 6-8)</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>715-582-4565</i>
	<i>Cell</i>	<i>715-927-5478</i>
	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>school@stjohnpeshtigo.org</i>
<i>Mrs. Beth Arnold (Grades 3-5)</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>920-846-8397</i>
<i>Mrs. Susan Myslik (Grades K-2)</i>	<i>Cell</i>	<i>507-327-4421</i>
<i>Mrs. Becky Rohde (Preschool)</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>715-923-5826</i>
<i>Church/School Website</i>	<i>www.stjohnpeshtigo.org</i>	
<i>Church Secretary-Brenda Polzin</i>	<i>Cell</i>	<i>920-660-5801</i>
	<i>Email</i>	<i>stjohngrover@gmail.com</i>
<i>Office hours @ St. John School</i>		
<i>Wednesday 7:30am-2:30pm</i>		
<i>Thursday 7:30am-12pm(subject to change)</i>		