



We
GIVE
because He first
GAVE

**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!

Today we begin a three-week stewardship emphasis. The word stewardship is often seen as a dirty word—a gimmick to get people to dig deeper and “give ‘til it hurts.” Nothing could be further from the truth! Instead, stewardship is a precious word that sums up the Christian life. It encourages us to be who we truly are in Christ: Precious people who have been richly blessed by a Father who knows how to give good gifts to his children!

Christians face a daily struggle. We have two paths set before us. The New Man, created within us at baptism, wants to live for Christ and the life that is to come. But our sinful nature focuses us on this life. That struggle pulls us in two directions when it comes to how we set our priorities or use our time. The struggle is especially noticeable when we wrestle with how to use the financial resources God has given us.



The Lord speaks about worldly wealth and possessions in over 2,300+ passages of Scripture. In other words, God speaks to us about worldly wealth roughly three times more often than he does about faith! Why? So that God can get to the “heart of the matter.” Money and possessions are God’s gifts to us. Sadly, human hearts often lust after these gifts and forget about the Giver. What heartache comes from a love affair with money and possessions! What good can result for us, for the Church, and for the world as we put the Giver first—offering back to him the FIRSTFRUITS of all that he has entrusted to us. God is many places. Second place in our hearts dare never be one of them!

Christ’s willing sacrifice for us is our motivation and inspiration to give back to God. May he open the hearts of his people to offer him our first and our best!

Our worth will follow this path.

Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)

Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)

Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

All Depends on Our Possessing | **CW421:1-4**

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

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

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

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

C: **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 & 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, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

M: 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.

C: Amen.

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

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. 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

Haggai 1:1-11

The Lord asks his people to give careful thought about the relationship between their finances and their faith.

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’” ³ Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” ⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. ⁹ “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹ I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, ⁴ on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 145 (Read Responsively)

Page 119 in *Christian Worship*

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus teaches it is the height of folly to live for this temporal life, forgetting of the eternal life that is to come.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of his Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON

Giving to God Doesn't Make a Bit of Sense!

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.

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

M: Lord, from your hand comes boundless riches.

C: 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.

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

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

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

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

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

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

C: Amen.

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

Take My Life and Let it Be CW469

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.

CLOSING HYMN

All Depends on Our Possessing | **CW421:5**

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
February 2, 2020

Pastor Daniel Sargent
Becky Marotz
Ventimiglia Family

Pastor
Organist
Sunday Greeters

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.

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.

Special Voters' Meeting All voters of our congregation are requested to attend a special meeting next Sunday, February 9, after the service here in church. This is an important meeting for the plans to call a new principal.

Installation of Officers Today, the officers of the congregation will be installed.

Ladies' Aid/Men's Club We will have Ladies' Aid/Men's club this Thursday, February 6, at 1pm. All ladies and men of our congregation are welcome to join.

Youth Outing Next Sunday, February 9, there will be a snow tubing outing. We will meet at St. Paul Church, Oconto Falls at 1:00pm. Bring your own snow tubes!!
SIGN UP SHEET IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!!!

2020 WELS International Youth Rally There is information on the bulletin board regarding this year's International Youth Rally. More details will be coming.

E-giving As you may all know that we do have the E-giving program up and running.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions on the program.

Organ Anniversary Our beautiful church organ will celebrate it's 100th anniversary in February, 2021. The Church Council has recommended that a Committee be formed to help plan a Worship Celebration of Thanksgiving for this anniversary. To help with the planning, Dave Fabry Jr. from the Fabry Organ Company in Antioch IL, is willing to come to address the congregation on the status of our Organ and any repairs or improvements it may need. He will be here on the 16th of February, 2020 to meet with members of the congregation after service.

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 Zion, Peshtigo. The daily devotions on WOCO AM (1260) & FM (107.1) this week (Monday-Friday at 9:05 am) are hosted by Grace, Crivitz, by Pastor Jon Zietlow.

Last Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

Those Who Joined Us in Worship (1/26/20)	117
Average Sunday Attendance for the Year (4 weeks)	162
Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	21/13
Sunday School Mission Offering	\$12.75

This Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

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

Wednesday 4:30pm Confirmation Class (4:30-6:00pm)

Thursday 1:00pm Ladies' Aid/Men's Club

Friday 8:20am School Chapel Devotion

6-8pm CEA Family Dance @ Peshtigo Elementary

Sunday 8:30am Sunday School & Bible Study

9:30am Worship Service (Children's Sermon)

1:00pm Youth Snow Tubing Outing @ St. Paul, Oconto Falls

Next Sunday's Counting Team: Team "F" - Lange, Richlen, Sobeck
Next Sunday's Greeters: Lisa Sargent & Connie Seefeldt

Offerings for the Lord's Work

General Fund Income for 12/29/19 (1 wk)	\$ 13,256.46
General Fund Income for 1/5/20, 1/12/20 (2 wks)	\$ 11,694.96
General Fund Income for 1/19/20, 1/26/20 (2 wks)	\$ 11,197.13
Total General Fund Income (31 weeks)	\$192,786.27
Budget Needs Weekly at \$7,616.11 (31 weeks)	\$236,099.41
(every 2 weeks \$15,232.22 needed)	
Total Budget Deficit in Offerings	\$ 43,313.14
Borrowed Funds for Current Operating Expense	\$ 41,390.80

Included in General Fund Income Total:

E-giving - \$1,505.88; Tuition - \$3,022.50

Special Gifts & Offerings:

Church Organ Fund - \$100; Debt Reduction - \$234; CMO - \$100; Sunday School Missions - \$23.75; LYG - \$76; Future Church Workers - \$8.82

Memorials & Special Gifts Received:

Organ Fund - In memory of Eldora Marquardt from Jim & Connie Seefeldt

Organ Fund - In memory of Katherine Decoursin, Jeri Schroeder, Dalton-Joe Schroeder, Nicholas Decoursin from Jim & Connie Seefeldt

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School Staff

Pastor Daniel Sargent *Cell* 920-228-1061

E-mail dsargentzambia@gmail.com

Lisa Sargent *Cell* 920-228-1563

Mr. Lance List, Principal (Grades 6-8) *Office* 715-582-4565

Cell 715-927-5478

E-mail school@stjohnpeshtigo.org

Mrs. Beth Arnold (Grades 3-5) *Home* 920-846-8397

Mrs. Susan Myslik (Grades K-2) *Cell* 507-327-4421

Mrs. Becky Rohde (Preschool) *Home* 715-923-5826

Church/School Website *www.stjohnpeshtigo.org*

Church Secretary-Brenda Polzin *Cell* 920-660-5801

Email stjohngrover@gmail.com

Office hours @ St. John School

Wednesday 7:30am-2:30pm

Thursday 7:30am-12pm(subject to change)

School News

- ◆ We are currently having a Valentine Fundraiser. Students are selling chocolate and popcorn from the Sweet Cheese Loft in Crivitz. Options are: ½ pound fudge heart (can be personalized with name or Happy Valentine's Day - Milk Chocolate, Chocolate Walnut, Peanut Butter Chocolate, or White Chocolate Cookie Dough) - \$10,
- ◆ ½ pound bag of cheese popcorn - \$5, 1 pound bag of caramel popcorn - \$10, 1 pound bag of Northwoods (mix of cheese, caramel and plain) - \$10 If you are interested in ordering ask a student of St. John and they will gladly take your order! Orders will be here in time for Valentine's Day (2/12).
- ◆ TIME CHANGE - CEA Family Dance - Friday, February 7, 6:00 - 8:00pm
- ◆ Peshtigo Elementary This is for all families of St. John. We hope you will make plans to join us for this time of fun and fellowship!

