

# 1010

for

*Stewardship Emphasis*

Week Two

## OPEN MINDS

*Proportionate Giving*



**NORTHDAL E LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**TAMPA, FL**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

# Northdale Lutheran Church and School

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*"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"*

## THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Welcome to Northdale Lutheran!** We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.
- ❖ To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience, a Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship. ***Please do not leave children unattended in the Quiet Room. We ask that at least one adult be present while children are in this room.***
- ❖ Everything you need for worship will be printed in the worship folder.

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

This weekend is the second 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.

Americans are generally shy when it comes to talking about money. The Lord isn't. He speaks to us about worldly wealth and possessions over 2,300 times in his Word. Last week we heard that the Lord asks, without apology, to be first in our hearts. The Lord's position in our hearts is to be reflected in our firstfruits giving. Firstfruits giving calls for us to open up our hearts and offer up to God our first and our very best.

This weekend, the Lord will open our minds to consider the magnitude of his blessings. Each of us has been blessed in different ways and at various levels. What should our thoughtful, prayerful response be to these blessings? That's where the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving is such a help. For some families with fewer resources, the practice of giving 10% of their income might be a significant leap of faith. For other families with more resources, the practice of giving 10% may be a starting point for faith-filled giving.

St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Christians are blessed as they put God's principles of proportional giving into practice!

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**

Dear Father, you have given me so much more than I can ever return to you. Give me the wisdom I need to respond to your love thoughtfully. Strengthen my will to dedicate all that I am and have to your glory thankfully. I ask this in the name of the One who lived and died for me, Jesus Christ, your Son, my Lord. Amen.

# CALL TO WORSHIP

## OPENING HYMN, CW #485, "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN"



1 We give thee but thine own, What - e'er  
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus As stew -  
 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes  
 4 To com - fort and to bless, To find  
 5 The cap - tives to re - lease, To God



the gift may be; All that we have is  
 ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as thou  
 are bare and cold, And lambs for whom the  
 a balm for woe, To tend the lone and  
 the lost to bring, To teach the way of



thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.  
 bless - est us, To thee our first - fruits give.  
 shep - herd bled Are stray - ing, from the fold.  
 fa - ther - less, Is an - gels' work be - low.  
 life and peace— It is a Christ - like thing.

6 And we believe thy Word  
 Though dim our faith may be:  
 Whate'er for thine we do, O Lord,  
 We do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97.

Tune: ENERGY (SM) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

PLEASE STAND

## INVOCATION

*(The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.)*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

M: "Everything under heaven belongs to me," declares Lord.

C: **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.**

M: You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

C: **But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.**

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

C: **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

*Job 41:11; James 1:17; Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:17,18; 1 Chronicles 16:34*

## CONFESSION

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 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: **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: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Y Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, we now praise the Lord!

C: *(Sing CW #480 vs. 1,4)*



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n and earth;  
4 We, Lord, would lay, at your re - quest,

With lav - ish wealth be - fore on you bow;  
The cost - liest of - f' rings on your shrine,

Those trea - sures owe give to you their birth,  
And when we give and give our best,

So rich - ly fur - nished for us now.  
We but re - turn your gifts di - vine.

Text: Edward A. Dayman, 1807–90, alt.

Tune: O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT (LM) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, alt.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving care; and grant that we, remembering the richness of your grace, may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BE SEATED



## THE WORD OF GOD\*

### THE FIRST LESSON: I CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

*Scripture calls for offerings that are “in keeping with your income,” that is, proportionate. These offerings are given so that God’s people might be a blessing to others, meeting physical and eternal needs.*

<sup>1</sup>Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. <sup>3</sup>Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

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#### \*The Word of God

*“The reading of the Lessons is a highlight of a service. The spiritually hungry have come to be fed and nurtured and to drink from the waters of life. Knowing that ‘faith comes from hearing the message,’ God’s people listen intently with attention aroused to be blessed by the hearing of God’s Word.” Christian Worship Manual*

## PSALM OF THE DAY, *PSALM 100*

### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

### *Psalm tone*



### ***Refrain***

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.\*

Worship the LORD with gladness;

Come before him with joyful songs.\*

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;\*

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

### ***Refrain***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;\*

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;\*

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**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***

*REFRAIN TUNE: KERMIT G. MOLDENHAUER. © 1993 KERMIT G. MOLDENHAUER (ADMIN. NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED BY PERMISSION.*

*PLEASE STAND*



## THE GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 25:14-30

*This lesson serves as the sermon text for today.*

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**M:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise be to you, O Christ!

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## *Nicene Creed*

**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.**

*BE SEATED*

# SERMON HYMN, CW #349, "JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE" (VS. 1,4,5)



1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est  
2 In thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo -  
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de -  
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my  
5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of



plea - sure, Tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long  
lest me Can - not reach me here. Though the earth  
cry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt  
plea - sure; Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp -  
glad - ness, Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love



in an - guish Shall my spir - it lan - guish,  
be shak - ing, Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing,  
not harm me Nor thy threats a - larm me  
ty glo - ry! Naught to me thy sto - ry  
the Fa - ther, Though the storms may ga - ther,



Yearn - ing, Lord, for thee? Thou art mine, O  
Je - sus calms my fear. Light - nings flash And  
While I sing of peace. God's great pow'r Guards  
Told with tempt - ing voice. Pain or loss Or  
Still have peace with - in. Yea, whate - 'er I



Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer naught to  
thun - ders crash; Yet, tho' sin and hell as -  
ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its depths a -  
shame or cross Shall not from my Sav - ior  
here must bear, Thou art still my pur - est



hide thee, Naught I ask be - side thee.  
sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
dore him, Si - lent bow be - fore him.  
move me Since he deigns to love me.  
plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3.

Tune: JESU, MEINE FREUDE (665 665 34 86) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

**SERMON TEXT: MATTHEW 25:14-30**

**SERMON THEME:**

## ***What Really Matters Is Knowing the Master***

# **THANKSGIVING**

### **OFFERING**

*Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the pews and pass it to those sitting next to you.*

*Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.*

*Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**M:** Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

**C:** **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

**M:** Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work and the income it provides.

**C:** **Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.**

**M:** We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. We understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

**C:** **Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.**

*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**

**All:** 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.

# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Northdale Lutheran practices Close Communion. **We ask that only members of Northdale Lutheran or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament today.** If you have questions about becoming a member to partake of the sacrament, please speak to pastor after worship.*



## PREFACE

*(The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.)*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*(As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.)*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for

you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:           Amen**

*BE SEATED*

## DISTRIBUTION

*(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.)*

**GUESTS:** SO THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE PASTOR BEFORE COMMUNING WITH US.

**MEMBERS:** WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE “PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION” ON PAGE 156 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*CW #483, “LORD OF ALL GOOD”*

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring you now;  
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand your ways;  
3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;

Use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.  
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great de - sign;  
Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;

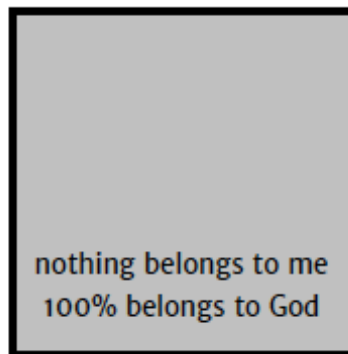
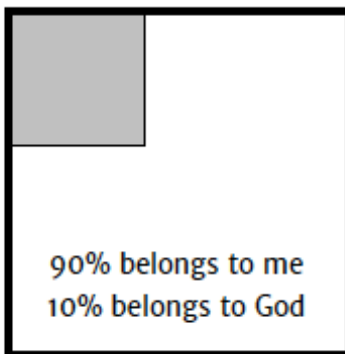
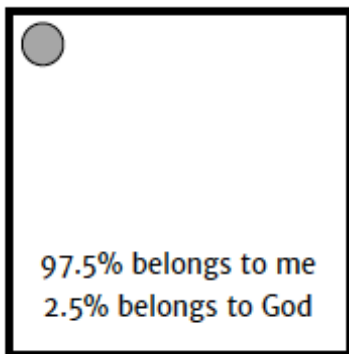
To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be  
Hearts with the flame of your own love a - blaze—  
Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows;

That our whole life is of - fered to your will.  
Thus for your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.  
To you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

## BIBLE STUDY: PROPORTIONATE GIVING

### I. INTRODUCTION

- ? Which of these diagrams do you think most accurately reflects the Bible's teaching on money, possessions, and our use of them?



**Proportionate giving begins by recognizing  
who really is the \_\_\_\_\_.**

### II. GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

**Genesis 1:1**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**John 1:3**

*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

**Job 33:4**

*The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

**Job 41:11**

*The Lord said, "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me."*



## Exodus 19:6

*The Lord said, "...the whole earth is mine."*

**God \_\_\_\_\_ everything  
and therefore \_\_\_\_\_ everything**

### III. WE, BY NATURE, RESENT GOD'S OWNERSHIP

Think of the way we talk about wealth and possessions. At every step we are forgetful of the fact that God owns everything.

- There are two children who want the same toy. "Mine!"
- There is the man talking about his salary. "Last year I made \$52,000."
- There is the admiration for the "self-made millionaire."

We need to constantly guard our hearts and minds, remembering God created all things, and therefore owns all things. Anything we have—our life, our intellect, our time, our possessions—we have because he generously gave them to us.

#### **James 1:17**

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.*

### POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Below are things we tell ourselves. In your own words, explain how God answers.

**Man says:**     *"I put in my time."*

**God says:**     *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:13-14).*

**Man says:**     *"It's my brain and talent that are responsible for my success."*

**God says:**     *"I have filled him (Bezalel) with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood" (Exodus 31:3-5).*

**Man says:**     *"I've worked hard for what I've got!"*

**God says:** *"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).*

## THE TAKEAWAY

- a) If I don't recognize God's complete ownership, I need to \_\_\_\_\_ of my idolatry.
- b) If I do recognize God's complete ownership, as his forgiven child I give to him \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) If my life's focus is on earthly possessions, every day I live is a day I come closer to losing \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) If my life's focus is on heaven, then every day I live is a day I come closer to \_\_\_\_\_ everything.

## IV. QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS...

So, our New Man wants to honor Christ through percentage giving. That New Man now wrestles with the following questions.

**"What percentage should I give?"** Turn the table on legalism!

- Abraham gladly gave \_\_\_\_\_%, a "tithe" (Genesis 14:20)
- Old Testament law \_\_\_\_\_ people to give multiple tithes (Numbers 18:21-23; Deuteronomy 14:22-29)
- Zacchaeus freely gave \_\_\_\_\_% (Luke 19:1-10)
- The widow of Zarephath and the widow at the temple gave \_\_\_\_\_% (1 Kings 17:7-16; Luke 21:1-4)

The point? Let the percentage of your gifts flow from the Spirit's work in your heart.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

**"How much of God's money do I need to live on?"** Turn the table on greed!

- ? Consider these two examples. There is a single mom with two children who made \$30,000 last year. She gave \$2,500 in offerings. There is a two-income family with two children who made \$110,000 last year and gave \$11,000. Who gave more?

The point? God is so generous, he often gives us so much income that we can not only meet our needs but also purchase some things we want, but don't really need. However, if we better distinguish between wants and needs... if we focus on earthly needs and heavenly wants... it frees us up to be exceedingly generous with our offerings.

**“What will my investments be earning 50,000 years from now?”** Turn the table on materialism!

**Matthew 6:21**

*Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

**Martin Luther**

*I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.*

- ? You gave \$10,000 to support our congregation. Your gift was used to fund efforts to reach the lost. It funded the teaching of God's Word to young and old. A portion of it was sent to WELS to support world-wide mission efforts. How might you enjoy that investment 50,000 years from now?

The point? Even Jesus had a treasurer. Ministry requires funding. An earthly investment can bring joy only in this life. But investing in gospel ministry can reap blessings that we will enjoy for all eternity.

**“Do I fully comprehend Jesus' sacrifice for me?”** Turn the table on self-centeredness!

**2 Corinthians 8:9**

*For 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.*

- ? Part of “the American Dream” is upward mobility. Americans typically aspire to move up in their socioeconomic status. There is also the possibility of downward mobility. People who were rich can end up dirt poor. There is no greater example of downward mobility than Jesus. Describe a) how big a step down he took and b) why he was willing to take that step.

The point? Giving generously will never be achieved by focusing only on the Scripture passages which talk about generous giving! The gospel—the good news of Christ’s sacrifice, resurrection and the glorious eternity that is waiting for us—is what the Spirit uses to empower joyful, generous giving.

### **III. NEWS AND NOTES**

- This week is the time to study the information in your 10 for 10 commitment packet. Please read the letter, use the planning tools included, and prayerful consider what your response will be.
- Two weeks from today is when commitment cards will be gathered. Important note: 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

### **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 upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace

**C:** **Amen**

# CLOSING HYMN: CW #486, "LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US", (vs 1-2)



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Glad - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en To our  
4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f' rings Which on  
5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your  
hum - blest char - i - ty In your own mys - te - rious  
ev - 'ry hand we view Chan - nels are for gifts and  
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice,  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
sen - tence, "You have done it un - to me."  
of - f' rings Due by sol - emn right to you,  
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That you  
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we  
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To th' un - thank - ful and the  
you, at length be - lieve That more hap - py and more  
need what we can do, Say - ing by your poor and  
may not choose but pay Lest that face of love and  
stay our souls on you; But, oh, best of all your



e - vil With your own un - spar - ing hand.  
bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"  
pit - y Turn from us a - noth - er day.  
gra - ces, With your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.

Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87.

*Copies of today's sermon and last week's sermon can be found on the table in the narthex on the way out of church. You can also find them on our website at [www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org). In addition, all of our services are live streamed & can be viewed through the live streaming link located on our church website. We also e-mail out daily devotions. If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please e-mail Pastor Vann at [pastor@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@northdalelutheran.org) and let him know. You can also become a friend on Facebook.*

## **Announcements:**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Today we continue our Sunday morning Bible Study entitled, "**Agents of Grace.**" David was the greatest king of God's Old Testament people, the Israelites. Throughout his life, God used many people to mold David into the man and leader he came to be. This Bible study looks closely at those people, but also helps us focus on the people God brings into our lives for the same purpose. Join us at 9:25 for this interesting study.

**Youth Group:** There will be a carwash fundraiser October 13<sup>th</sup> after the second service. Youth fifth grade and up (and parents) should plan to bring a change of clothes and buckets/rags. Proceeds will benefit upcoming events/rallies. November 15<sup>th</sup> is a S'mores/Campfire/Movie Night at church. Please contact Amy Vann if you would like to contribute. Also, youth Bible Study will be studying Creation through the Flood. If you are interested in helping lead this course in a rotation once a month or every other month, please contact Chris Haring or Amy Vann.

### **School Marketing Team**

We would like to become more active in recruiting students for our school, so we are starting a Recruitment Team. We are looking for people who are interested in helping to grow and promote our school to people in our community. We would like to do this promotion through various avenues and are looking for people who would help us to do this. If you are interested in participating in this Recruitment Team to help increase the number of students in our school, please contact our principal, Dane Mattes at [dane.mattes@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:dane.mattes@northdalelutheran.org).

### **Congregational Annual Meeting**

Today is the day for our Annual Meeting. We will meet in the sanctuary after the 10:30 a.m. service. At this meeting, we will also be approving the financial plan (budget) for the fiscal year of 2019-2020. We are operating on a very slim amount in our operating fund currently due to a smaller than anticipated enrollment in our school and a decrease in congregational giving. So some very hard decisions had to be made which resulted in some very difficult cuts to our budget for this year. It is important that everyone of our members be present for this meeting. We are seeking your input and help for ways to correct this situation and for ideas to help us move forward. This is very important for the financial health of our church and school. Please set aside time to join us for this important meeting. We appreciate your support and help as we continue to aggressively proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus to our community.

**Moms and Tots:** We are getting ready to kick-off the fall session of our Moms and Tots group. We thank Mary Mosakowski and Angel Allan for their willingness to volunteer to run this program. It is a great way for moms and their tots to interact with each other and other moms and their tots. It is also a great introduction to the great instruction we offer to children and families through our church and school. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in this program, you can register on our website at [www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org).

### **Called Staff**

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-4854

Principal Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Joanne Mattes: 920-588-7596

Bethany Schwartz: 920-222-9279

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-5025

### **This Week:**

Monday (9/16): 6:30pm - Evangelism

7:30pm - Worship Team

Tuesday (9/17): 6:30pm - Bible Information Class

Wednesday (9/18): 6:30pm - Catechism

Thursday (9/19): 6:30pm - Evenings with Pastor

Sunday (9/22): 8:00 & 10:30am - Worship

9:15am - Teen Bible Study and Sunday School for Children

9:25am - Adult Bible Study

### **Serving Today**

Music: Dane Mattes

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Laurin

10:30 —Chris Haring & Diane Cihalski

Acolyte: 8:00—Daniel Busch

10:30—Carolyn Mattes

Elder: David Mosakowski

### **Serving Next Week**

Music: 8:00—Chris Haring

10:30—Nick Koren

Ushers: 8:00—Mike Laurin

10:30 —Chris Teeples/Christina Sampeur

Acolyte: 8:00—Julia Busch

10:30—Vincent DiCicco

Elder: David Mosakowski

### **Attendance Last Week**

8:00 a.m.—31

10:30 a.m.—95

Total: 126

Yearly Average: 103

% of Members in Worship: 43%

### **Financial Information**

Contributions for 9/8: \$2,326.00

Online Contributions for 9/8: \$1,285.00

Contributions budgeted: \$4,423.08

Contributions budgeted to date: \$44,230.80

Contributions received to date: \$37,810.05

Ahead or (Short) through 9/8/19: (\$6,420.75)

### **Building Our Faith ~ Family ~ Future**

Total Gifts Pledged to the Project: \$370,000.00

Received Last Week: \$325.00

Total received to date: \$312,576.72

Projected Completion date: March 2020