

1010

for

Week One

OPEN HEARTS

Firstfruits Giving



JANUARY 18, 2026 ✕ 8:00 AM + 10:15 AM

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as you're comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- * If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY: BIBLE STUDY IN SERVICE

The end of the service today and for the next two Sundays will be a little different than usual. We'll spend about 15 minutes with a short Bible study. Feel free to take notes, raise your hand to answer a question, or just listen. The goal of these short Bible studies is to think through some of the many parts of the Bible that encourage faithful stewardship.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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.



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10 for 10 : OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)

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.

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. 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!



In this worship series we'll follow this path:

Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)

Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)

Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* 

OPENING HYMN 749 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

VERSES OF PRAISE

Psalms 24:1; 145:1,3,4,13

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

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

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

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

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

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.

OUR CONFESSION OF SIN

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 our lack of love for one another

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

... in often wasting the precious time you give us.

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

...in failing to care for the bodies and minds you have given us.

...in our refusal to make you our first priority. Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence for personal reflection

OUR LORD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. *(Isaiah 1:18)*

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *(1 Timothy 1:15)*

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.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the Cre - a - tor tri - um-phantly raise, who fash-ioned and
made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us
on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; his
light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin-ing forth in the
night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
ban-ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Haggai 1:1-11

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

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:

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.’”

Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 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.”

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. 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. “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. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 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, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another;

they tell of your mighty acts.

The Lord upholds all who fall

and lifts up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

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.

Please stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

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

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

Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 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.”

And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself,

‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

“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. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

“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?’

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY 753 My Worth Is Not In What I Own

SERMON Hagai 11 First Things First

Please stand

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.**

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.

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

Lord, from your hand comes boundless riches.

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.

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

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

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

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

Special intercessions may be inserted here.

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

Amen.

OFFERING



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All glory and splendor, thanks and praise are yours, O Lord, our Father.

You pierced the gloomy darkness of sin and unbelief with the brilliant light of your Son.

You guided the Magi to worship the Christ and revealed the mystery of your eternal plan to save both Jew and Gentile.

You declared Jesus your beloved Son at the Jordan River and, with your Spirit, you anointed him to be the Savior of all people.

Bless our reception of your Son's body and blood that we may shine with the joy of faith. Use this holy sacrament to illuminate our lives and minds with Christ's forgiveness, peace, and comfort. Refresh

our faith, and help us to reflect his truth and grace to the world. We ask this that you may receive endless honor, glory, and praise from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

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.

Amen.

O LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN 665 What Is This Bread?

HYMN 670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

Remain seated

PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BIBLE STUDY: FIRSTFRUITS GIVING

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? When you heard that we would be talking about stewardship for three weeks, what was your response?

It is easy to think of “stewardship” as being a discussion about money. Consider the following quote:

Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us—and what we do with it.

(Randy Alcon in Money, Possessions, and Eternity, p. 140)

**Stewardship = Management of the _____ of the
_____ + _____ + _____ + _____
that God gives me**

- ? If “stewardship is the Christian life,” why will a modern stewardship study need to focus on money, perhaps more than ever before in history?

Psalm 20:7 - *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

- ? Complete: Stewardship does not just give the Lord honor. It demonstrates that we _____ him.

FIRSTFRUIT BASICS

The focus of firstfruits giving is not
the _____ but the _____.

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

- ? When God calls for firstfruits giving in that passage, what is the amount he asks for?

Deuteronomy 26:8-10

So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me.

- ? Again, no amount is stipulated for this firstfruits offering. What is stressed is the attitude. How would you characterize the attitude of the Israelite when he brought his firstfruits offerings?

Mark 10:21-22

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

- ? This man had claimed to follow all of God's law. Was God actually *first* in his life? Give the reason for your answer.

The focus of firstfruits giving is not on _____ but on _____.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

- ? Do you believe the passages above are literally true? If so, how does that have to affect the way you approach stewardship?

John 1:2

He [Jesus] was with God [the Father] in the beginning.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- ? What do these passages teach us about how God gives.

God gave us his _____ and gave us his _____.

Romans 7:18

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Galatians 5:24

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- ? These passages teach:
- Through my sinful nature, _____ assures that God will always come anywhere but first.
 - Through the Spirit we are _____ to give in a way that glorifies God—Creator, Savior, Spirit. As God's children, he comes first!

THE CHALLENGE

If you are not in the spiritual habit of giving to the Lord first, it is time to reconsider that habit. The First Commandment dictates that we are to fear, love and trust in God above all things. Firstfruits giving helps us do exactly that. It tangibly puts God first.

NOTES

- This first week, invest yourself in praying about why you do or do not practice firstfruits giving. If you do, is your attitude correct? If you do not, ask yourself: does God ever command something that isn't meant to be a blessing for me? "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). That's God's promise to you!
- Over the next couple weeks, we will talk about how to respond to God's love and grace in our stewardship. At the end of this three-week emphasis members will be asked to fill out cards, which are a ten-week giving plan.
- Additional devotional material has been/will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.

PRAYER

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

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN 617 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**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.**



We thank the Lord for our accompanist, Kryssi Heckman, and for her gifts used to serve us and our Savior this morning!

Acknowledgments

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