

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

THE OPENING HYMN “All Depends on Our Possessing”

Christian Worship #421 vs. 1-4



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God’s a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
4 Well he knows what best to grant me; All the long - ing



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
hopes that haunt me, Joy and sor - row, have their day.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en In their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er— As God wills, so



not for - sak - en And e’er keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, Will re - main my help di - vine.
last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.
be it ev - er— I to him com - mit my way.

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 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!

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n and earth
2 The wealth of earth, of sky, of sea,
With lav - ish wealth be - fore you bow;
The gold, the sil - ver, spark - ling gem,
Those trea - sures owe to you their birth,
The wav - ing corn, the bend - ing tree,
So rich - ly fur - nished for us now.
Are yours; you are but lend - ing them.

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

¹In 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:

²This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’”

³Then 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?”

⁵Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You 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.”

⁷This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸Go 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. ¹⁰Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹I 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 PSALM OF THE DAYPsalm 145

Christian Worship pg. 119

Refrain



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm tone



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

One generation will commend your works to another;* they will tell of your mighty acts.

The LORD upholds all those who fall* and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

THE GOSPEL LESSON 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.

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

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

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁹And 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!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “What Is the World to Me”

Christian Worship #477



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed
 2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the
 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mon - ey
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my



plea - sure When you, and you a - lone, Lord
 might - y, Yet nev - er once re - flects That
 of - fers, Yet nev - er is con - tent Though
 trea - sure, My life, my health, my wealth, My



Je - sus, are my trea - sure! You on - ly, dear - est
 they are frail and flight - y. But what I tru - ly
 gold should fill its cof - fers. I have a high - er
 friend, my love, my plea - sure, My joy, my crown, my



Lord, My soul’s de - light shall be; You are my
 prize A - bove all things is he, My Je - sus,
 good; Con - tent with it I’ll be; My Je - sus
 all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly. Once more then



peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 he a - lone. What is the world to me!
 is my wealth— What is the world to me!
 I de - clare: What is the world to me!

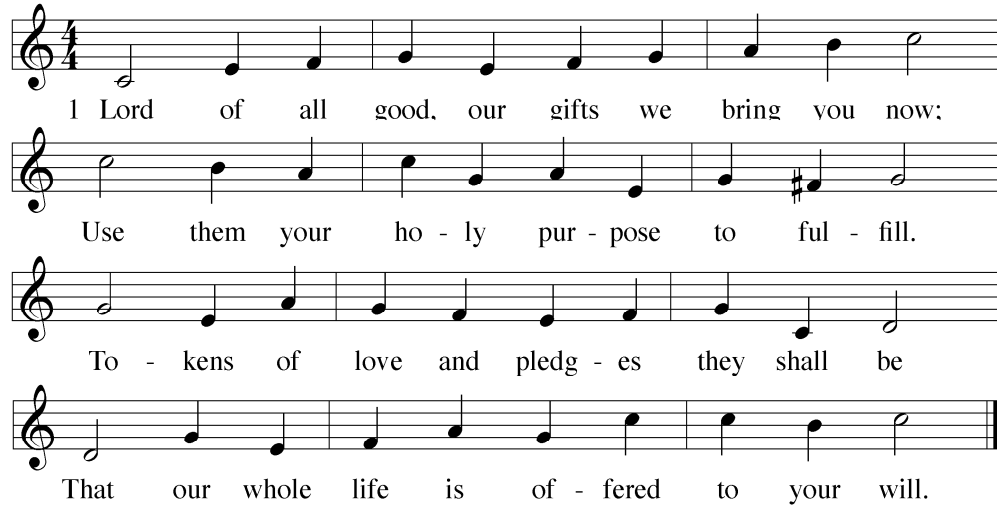
SERMON

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

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER **“Lord of All Good”**

Christian Worship #483 v. 1



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring you now;
 Use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
 To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
 That our whole life is of - fered to your will.

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 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.

BIBLE STUDY: Firstfruits Giving

I. INTRODUCTION

? 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.

II. 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 10:21-11

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.

Psalm 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.

III. NEWS AND NOTES

- Every member will receive a *10 for 10* commitment card. Keep it in a safe place and begin to pray about it. Do not fill it out yet! Instead, 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 those cards, which are a ten-week giving plan.
- Additional devotional material 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 on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “All Depends on Our Possessing”

Christian Worship #421 v. 5

If on earth my days he lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in his grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend's altar flowers are given by Gary & Donna Boldt in thanksgiving for their 36th wedding anniversary.

10 FOR 10 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS: Beginning this week we will begin a stewardship emphasis that is titled *"10 for 10: Teaching a Lutheran Perspective on Tithing."* 10 for 10 is meant to be an enhancement to our regular, weekly giving. Its purpose is simple: 10 for 10 is going to encourage each of us to be prayerful, thoughtful, and intentional in our giving. The generosity of God the Father will enable it! The grace of God the Son will empower it! The gifts of God the Holy Spirit will inspire it!

The format of the worship services will be different for these next three Sundays. The 10 for 10 emphasis includes a three-week worship series and Bible Study. The worship service will run about 40 minutes. Through Word and Sacrament, members are given the Gospel motivation for giving. After the Prayer of the Church in those three weeks, the congregation will engage in a 12 – 15 minutes Bible study, applying Scriptural stewardship principles to their personal lives. At home, members prayerfully put together a ten-week giving plan. The generosity of God the Father will enable it! The grace of God the Son will empower it! The gifts of God the Holy Spirit will inspire it!

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES: We will begin all of our Bible classes on Sunday, September 15th. This includes Sunday School, Adult Bible Class and Confirmation classes. Classes are held each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.

PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR: Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: September 19, October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, December 5 & 19, January 16, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2, May 7 & 21.

GALA MEETING: Our next Gala meeting will be on Sunday, September 8th at 6:30 PM in the school lobby. Our Biennial Gala & Silent Auction is our way of fundraising for the technology we use in our school. Join us at our meeting to see how you can be a part of it!

PRESCHOOL AFTERNOON CARE POSITION: This school year we have been blessed with a growing number of students enrolled in our extended care program, meaning they spend the afternoons with us after their Preschool/Junior Kindergarten session is finished. As a result of this increase, we are looking for someone to join our staff to assist with the afternoon care of our littlest students.

Hours - 12:00pm until 6 pm

Job description:

- Help with lunch and set up for rest time, and clean up after rest
- Interact using games, books, and activities for those no longer resting after 30 minutes or monitor rest time
- Tend to the needs of children as necessary
- Work with staff on maintaining best opportunities for students in our care
- Communicate with staff for coordination of activities

Attributes:

- Enjoys working with small children
- Able to work from the floor or low level with children
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Able to administer first aid and CPR if/when necessary
- Reliable and professional

*All applying persons are subject to a background check.

If you or someone you know may be interested in this position, please contact Principal Schulmeister at (414) 421-1930 or nschulmeister@stpaulsfranklin.org.

LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS: The Girl Pioneer program will begin Monday, September 16. This is a Christ-centered program for all girls in grades 1-8 that provides supervised and constructive recreation for our youth. It offers opportunities for Christian fellowship and encourages service to family, church and community with the motto "Loyal to Christ". Meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Meeting times will be 6:00-7:30 p.m. Annual dues will be \$30 per girl.

In order to plan for the 2019-2020 year, we need to have an idea of how many girls may be interested in the program. **Leaders and helpers are always needed as well.** You don't need to have a daughter in Pioneers to help out. There are forms on the counter in the narthex that can be filled out to indicate interest in joining or helping in some manner. Return the forms to the school office by September 13. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Adams at njadams86@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Family Fall Fest will be held on Sunday, October 6th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. More information to come!

USHERS: We have several open spots on our usher crews. Please consider serving your congregation in this way. If you are able to help, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP ASSISTANT: We are looking for someone to assist with our Youth Group. To find out more information, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

WLHS WORK DAYS: Do you have yard work or fall cleaning that needs to get done such as raking, hedge trimming, or window washing? Consider hiring hard-working members of WLHS student council for a day or a few hours for a free-will donation. All money raised will go to the 2019-20 SOL (Spreading Our Light) mission project to Haiti. Work days will be held on any Saturday or Sunday in September and October, starting on September 21 & 22, but excluding October 4 & 5. Additional work days will be held on October 24 & 25, and conclude on October 26 & 27. To request a team, please contact Reagan Derouin at 414-722-5031 or reaganderouin20@wlhs.org with your name, address, phone number, the work you need accomplished, and the day(s) this work could be completed.

WLHS INSTALLATION AND ANNIVERSARY SERVICE: Join WLHS in celebration at the installation and anniversary service on Sunday, September 8, at 3:00 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (3766 E Cudahy Ave.) in Cudahy, Wis. The service will include several new faculty installations, including our congregation's own Kendra Matus. All are invited to stay for refreshments following the service.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR THIS WEEK (September 8 & 9)

8:00 AM – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen
10:30 AM – Tony & Mary Tripoli
6:30 PM – {sign up to be a greeter!}

GREETERS FOR NEXT WEEK (September 15 & 16)

8:00 AM – Corrine Mayer
10:30 AM – Dave & Cindy Wirtz; Brandon, Austin & Ian
6:30 PM – Walter & Laurie Falkowski

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

8:00 AM – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Brandon Wirtz
10:30 AM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski
6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

Sept 11-17 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek
Sept 18-24 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marolin Krueger, Renate Nazimek

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Sept. 8: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Larry & Marion Klug
Sept. 15: Set-up – John & Jean Terek, Clean-up – Beverly Garves

GRASS CUTTING:

Sept 4-7 – TEAM #3 – Jerry Lehtinen & Gary Tomic
Sept 11-14 – TEAM #4 – Dave Qualmann

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 8

Worship Service8:00 AM
Worship Service10:30 AM

Monday, September 9

Worship Service 6:30 PM

Tuesday, September 10

Pastor Circuit Meeting at St. Paul's 10:00 AM

Church Council 6:30 PM

Wednesday, September 11

Board of Elders..... 6:30 PM

Friday, September 13

School Devotion 8:30 AM

Sunday, September 15

Worship Service with Communion 8:00 AM

Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 91, Communed – 70

9:30 AM – 121, Communed – 77

6:30 PM – 32, Communed – 23

Total Attendance – 244

Total Communed – 170