WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

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



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

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

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

Our worth is taking us on this path:

Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)
Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)
Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

"Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

Christian Worship #484 vs. 1-2



Please Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

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

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

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

M: Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

C: You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Psalm 24:1; Psalm 57:5; Ephesians 5:1,2; Hebrews 9:2 8; Psalm 118:28

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we humbly come before you today knowing that we have failed to speak lovingly, think purely, or act rightly. We have sinned against you and against others...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silence for personal reflection

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

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.

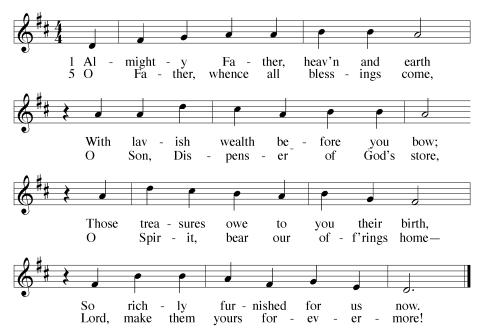
M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

"Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth"

Christian Worship #480 vs. 1 & 5



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord, giver of life and source of all love, we know that all we have received comes from your gracious hand. You call us to be stewards of your bounty, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send your Holy Spirit to work through us, that many more might come to know the saving riches of your Son. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of your Son in our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be Seated

LESSON 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

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

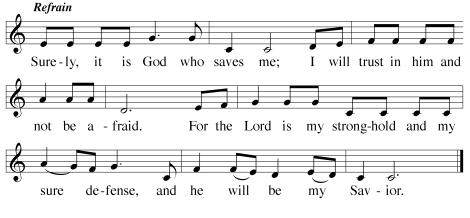
¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond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

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 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.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73

Christian Worship pg. 94





I am always with <u>you</u>, O LORD;* you hold me by my <u>right</u> hand.

You guide me with your <u>coun</u>sel,* and afterward you will take me into <u>glo</u>ry.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my <u>heart</u> may fail,* but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for<u>ev</u>er.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beg<u>in</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver"

Christian Worship #489

GOSPEL Mark 12:41-44

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

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH

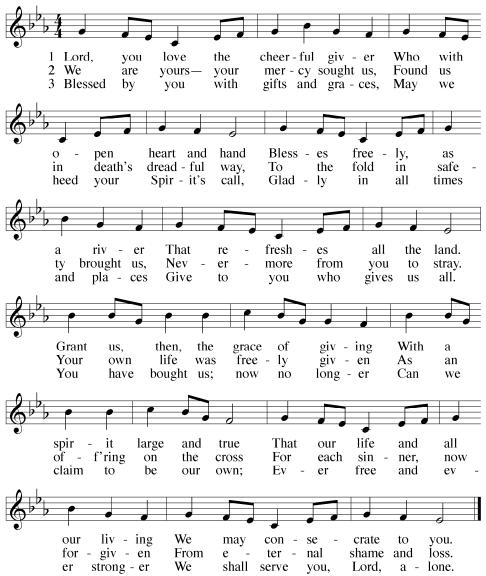
First Article of the Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Please be Seated



SERMON Should Jesus Really Be Watching My Wealth?

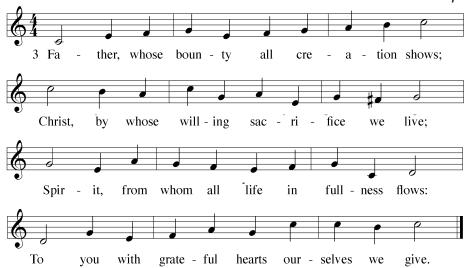
OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

"Lord of All Good"

Christian Worship #483 v. 3



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Gracious God, giver of all we have and hold as stewards, grant the people of this church a deep and abiding awareness that all things come from you—our health, our incomes, our jobs, our talents and our generous impulse.
- C: Send your Holy Spirit to empower us as we swim against the rising tides of materialism, envy, individualism and greed in our culture.
- M: When we are tempted to think of money as a private matter, remind us that you have asked for a portion of our income to be returned to you as a symbol of our awareness that all we have has been given by you, and as a sign of our trust that you will continue to provide.

- C: Help us in this grace of giving, for you are the lover of our souls.
- M: Most Holy Spirit, you breathed life into humanity and gave us various gifts and talents that we might use them for your glory and the common good.
- C: Help us to give ourselves to the well-being of others, just as Christ gave himself for our well-being, even unto the cross.
- M: Savior Jesus, you gave your disciples the responsibility of taking your gospel to the ends of the earth. Make our congregation generous in the support of missionaries who preach the good news on our behalf in those places we cannot go.
- C: Guard them and their families with your holy angels, and bless their labors as it pleases you.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father 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.

Please be Seated

BIBLE STUDY: Sacrificial Giving

I. INTRODUCTION

| A quick review of where we have been the last two weeks: | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Firstfruits giving: | Giving is a key | because I love and trust God. | |
| Proportional giving: | Stewardship includes pr | ayerfully considering how much o | |

This week we turn our attention to *sacrificial* giving, which is giving in a way that, to human reason, seems to be beyond ones means. It is giving *beyond one's regular firstfruits, proportional giving*. The cynical sinner in us would love to write off the topic of sacrificial giving as an exercise in "getting blood from a turnip." Yet, when we look at Scripture, we see that sacrificial gifts were never made under compulsion, but out of cheer; never out of fear, but out of faith; never out of obligation, but because there was an opportunity provided by God's providence.

Ironically, Americans are accustomed to *living* beyond their means. The average U.S. household is carrying over \$7,000 in credit card debt. Add to that an average household debt of \$28,000 for cars and another \$48,000 for student loans. So, we live beyond our income, assuming we will be able to handle that debt in the future. Yet, God has not promised us the next paycheck. Nowhere in Scripture does God promise the college graduate a high-paying job. There are exactly zero divine promises that would encourage us to be comfortable *living* beyond our means. But what about *giving* in a way that seems beyond our means?

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

? What promise does the LORD give to the children of Israel there?

Let us look at how our generous God empowers his children to imitate his generosity through sacrificial giving.

II. GOD ENABLES PEOPLE TO DO AMAZING THINGS

Matthew 20:21

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

? In Matthew 20, Jesus teaches us that if it was God's will that a mountain would throw itself into the sea, we should have faith that mountain will obey our command. Obviously, it is *not* God's will that mountains jump into the sea. It *is* his will that his children give generous offerings. Combine that with God's promise in Romans 10:17. Together, we have heard God's message on these important stewardship topics. Therefore, of what can we be confident?

John 15:5

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

? Notice Jesus doesn't say that if we remain in him we *should* bear much fruit or we *might* bear much fruit. He says we *will*. How can he speak so confidently?

The Point?

| God is neither | nor a | If he asks | us to do things |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| that are impossible, | he then giv | es us the | to do |
| that which he has asked. | | | |

When Jesus told Peter "Come!" he was asking Peter to do that which is impossible—walking on water. But the word of Christ gave Peter the ability to do the impossible. While Peter's faith fixed itself upon the promise, he was able to do the unthinkable. "Apart from me you can do nothing." It is only when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at his situation that he sank. We are the family of the Father who are filled with faith. When our God asks us to do something, we can trust he will give us the ability to do what he has asked. That is true when it comes to giving. Some examples...

The Widow Who Didn't Have Two Dimes to Rub Together

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

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

Amazing things we see:

| • | The widow gave | | % of | what | she | had |
|---|----------------|--|------|------|-----|-----|
|---|----------------|--|------|------|-----|-----|

- In God's ledger book, a fraction of a _____ can be more than thousands of dollars.
- Jesus is _____ what people give.

Poor As Dirt, Yet Serving the Saints

2 Corinthians 8:2-4

² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

- ? Circle the best answer. For the Macedonian churches, giving was:
 - a. like pulling teeth.
 - b. something that they might find some use for.
 - c. a privilege they pleaded for.

Circle the best answer. When it came to the amount of their gifts:

- a. It was just enough to keep Pastor Paul from sending a member of the Stewardship Committee to their homes.
- b. It was pretty respectable considering they didn't have much.
- c. It was shocking because God blessed them "to give even beyond their ability."

The Point?

| Giving is not a | of the rich, but a for the poor. |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| When it comes to giving, the, is what c | , not the counts in God's sight. |

III. PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

| • | giving teaches that giving to dod comes hist, because we |
|---|--|
| | are to fear, love, and trust in him above all things. |
| • | giving teaches that we give to God a pre-determined |
| | percentage of our wealth. Tithing, or giving ten percent, has served as a biblical |

aiving to school that giving to Cod somes first hospuse we

• _____ giving teaches that we may, in joy, give over and above our regular, proportional gifts.

Questions to Prayerfully Consider This Week

benchmark for proportionate giving.

- As I produce our ten-week giving plan, how will I demonstrate that God comes first? What is the Spirit empowering me to produce in the way of firstfruits giving?
- What is the proportion of my income the Spirit will enable me to return to God over the next ten weeks? How much of God's blessings do I need to keep for myself to live and have a satisfying life? How much does he allow me to give back?

 How will Christ's sacrifice and his promises enable me to be sacrificial in my giving?

IV. NEWS AND NOTES

- Next weekend your commitment cards will be gathered during the offering.
- One last reminder: 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 will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.
- Throughout the ten weeks of 10 for 10, we will receive additional encouragements from God's Word. Why? "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Christian Worship #486 vs. 1-2



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCREDITATION PRESENTATION: Today, Sunday, September 22nd from 9:15-10:15 AM (in between church services) you are invited to attend a presentation given by Mike Henning, Principal at Good Shepherd's Lutheran School in West Allis. Mr. Henning will give us more information about the accreditation process and what it means for St. Paul's. We encourage you to attend!

YOUTH GROUP: St. Paul's Youth Group will be going to the Round 1 Arcade at Southridge Mall today, Sunday, September 22nd from 4:00-6:00 PM. We will meet at the arcade at 4:00 PM. Students should bring money for the games. There is also food available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

LWMS DOOR COLLECTION: Next weekend, September 29 & 30, we are having our semi-annual door collection to support the ministry of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). For more information on the work of LWMS, visit their website: http://www.lwms.org. They thank you for your support.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL: Please join us on Sunday, October 6th from 11:30-1:00 PM for our Family Fall Festival! Lunch will be provided by Famous Dave's and there will be fun activities for the whole family – hay rides, a bounce house, face painting and more! Do you have a great chili recipe? If so, make sure you sign up for the chili cook-off (sign-up on the narthex counter)! A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family is appreciated. We hope to see you there!

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: October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, December 5 & 19, January 16, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2, May 7 & 21. There are extra flyers on the narthex counter to share with a friend!

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.

PRESCHOOL AFTERNOON CARE POSITION: We have an immediate opening for someone to join our staff to assist with the afternoon care of our littlest students. These students are part of our Extended Care program, which means they spend the afternoons with us after their Preschool/Junior Kindergarten session is finished.

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

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

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 6TH-8TH GRADE OPEN HOUSE: Wisconsin Lutheran High School's Open House is on Sunday, October 6. Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. with program at 6:00 p.m. Grade school parents and students please join us to meet teachers, tour the school, and learn more about tuition assistance, scholarships, and the Choice Program. See what a difference academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment can make in your child's life!

^{*}All applying persons are subject to a background check.

WLHS DEDICATION SERVICE: Join Wisconsin Lutheran High School on Sunday, September 29, at 2:00 p.m. for the dedication of the new dormitory, Honey Creek Hall. Tours are available before and after the service. Please register at bit.ly/honeycreekhall to reserve your spot on an available tour. For questions, contact planner@wlhs.org.

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 Our Hands for His Service 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.

JR. VIKINGS VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS: Girls 14-years-old and younger are invited to try out for Jr. Vikings Volleyball on Saturday, October 5, at Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School in New Berlin. Jr. Viking Volleyball exists to encourage young female athletes as they use their God-given talents both on and off the volleyball court. Tryout fee is \$30 per person. For more information, visit wlhs.org/jrvikings and select "Volleyball."

ST. MARCUS FINE ARTS SERIES: St. Marcus Lutheran Church is excited to launch their first-ever fine arts series! You are invited to join them for a concert on their newly rebuilt pipe organ on Friday, September 27th at 7:00 PM, presented by organist, David Porth. The program will include pieces old and new and will be augmented by choirs, brass and percussion. Free admission. RSVP: bit.ly/stamarcusorganconcert

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE GETAWAY WEEKEND: Bethany Lutheran College invites all high school juniors and seniors to join them for a free weekend October 24-26, 2019. Meet professors, directors and coaches, experience life in the residence hall and tour the campus and the city of Mankato. To reserve a seat or obtain more information, call Bethany's Admissions Office at (507) 593-7157. Please sign up by October 21st.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR THIS WEEK (September 22 & 23)

8:00 AM – Tim & Denise Rasmussen
10:30 AM – Brian & Kristal Young; Noelle, Declan & Parker
6:30 PM – Richard & Kathy Hinz

GREETERS FOR NEXT WEEK (September 29 & 30)

8:00 AM – John & Barb Migacz 10:30 AM – Andy & Chris Backus 6:30 PM – Donna LaBlanc

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 18-24 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek Sept 25-Oct 1 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves, Vanessa McKee

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Sept. 15: Set-up – John & Jean Terek, Clean-up – Beverly Garves Sept. 22: Set-up – Tony Tripoli & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Andy & Chris Backus

GRASS CUTTING:

Sept 11-14 – TEAM #4 – Dave Qualmann Sept 18-21 – TEAM #1 – Frank Krajewski

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 22

| Worship Service | 8:00 AM |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Accreditation Presentation | |
| Sunday School/PSCIC | 9:15 AM |
| Worship Service | |

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 110, Communed – 85 10:30 AM – 129, Communed – 82 6:30 PM – 54, Communed – 39 Total Attendance – 293 Total Communed – 206 Sunday Bible Class – 27, Sunday School – 13 PSCIC – 3