



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
John 10:11

May 2020

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Do You Believe What You Say You Believe In?

Mark 16:9-11 *9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. 11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.*

This year I woke up on Easter morning planning to stay home, not supposed to venture out for fear of catching or spreading the Corona virus. And then shortly after I awoke, I received a text from my good friend, Mary exclaiming, "He is risen!"

I was struck by the irony of my situation and it made me reflect on how I would respond to her text. Because of the virus situation, I felt very much like the disciples. They were hiding in the upper room after Jesus death, afraid to venture outside. And the disciples were first told by their Mary after she found the empty tomb that Jesus was alive. Similarly, I was "hiding" in my house and the first person to greet me with news of the risen Savior was my Mary.

I've often thought about my faith and wondered whether I believe in what I say believe in. Do I fully trust God, or not? The disciples did not believe their Mary. I asked myself, do I believe mine, or am I just giving the expected response?

Over the years, I have been afraid of many things and still am today. I've been afraid of doing poorly at work, of being a bad husband and father, of dealing with contentious people and situations. And yes, of being sick. But through all of those fears, I have seen my Savior at work, helping me through my situations. That is one way I've been certain my redeemer lives. I realized that my fears don't mean that I don't have faith in my Savior. My fears help me recognize my need for my Savior. For that, I am grateful.

Throughout this time of Corona virus, despite my complaints of "inconveniences" or accusations that people may be over reacting, I have heard many stories of God working through people to help each other and to strengthen relationships through means like internet calls when those calls would never have happened if there weren't a virus. I am humbled and in awe at God's presence. God's ability and desire to act in our lives doesn't depend on the size of my faith, as mustard seed size that it is. God's ability is based on his power which he exerted through the resurrection of his son! And today I see that same power in action.

Yes, I believe in what I say I believe in. And because of that, I was able to reply to my Mary,

"He is risen indeed!"

David Smith, Head elder
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Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 (KJV)



Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!



No pandemic is a match for our risen Lord! Let us also, in these trying times, **raise up** and **walk in newness of life**, not letting our circumstances keep us from exercising our faith muscles and heart for our Risen Lord. It is exactly for such a time as this that we are equipped to express our trust and faith in our unstoppable and all powerful Savior! Let us continue to come together, albeit electronically, to worship and encourage one another!

And let us continue to use the gifts we've been blessed with to bless others. No need to over think it! We have laptops, phones, pens, paper, mailboxes, legs that walk the neighborhood and cars. Continue to be deliberate, take opportunities presented or make them where they are not. Email an acquaintance, phone a friend or write/call a shut-in. When out for necessities, pick up a spare staple or two for the GSL Pantry.

Virtual Meeting: Council

Council met virtually in April and will again in May. We reviewed our financial position and the guidance provided by the district on applying for the PPP Loans available to non-profits through the CARES Act recently passed by Congress. Praise God that we are in a unique and sound position financially given that we are not paying a pastor's salary and that we had planned for emergencies and special projects like the roof repair. The consensus of the council is that we need not apply for the loans at this time. Our treasurer, **Kathy Meckstroth**, also reported that Go Pantry received \$825. Thank you to all those who participated in this effort!

Our Inreach Anniversary committee continues to make plans designing invitations for our September celebration hopeful that we will be able to celebrate as we are accustomed. COVID-19 has hampered efforts to secure a caterer. If you would like to assist the committee in any way, please contact our Inreach chair, **Deb Fitzpatrick**.

The Education Board is seeking two volunteers for Youth Leader and Cradle Roll. Please contact **Mary Givhan**. **Julie Rath** reported that the mobile food pantry scheduled for May by Outreach will be rescheduled at a later date. We don't want to put volunteers and participants at risk health wise. The Charlie's Socks effort will continue when we can return to fellowship. Property scheduled the roof repair and it was completed in April. It looks great and it is very gratifying that our financial preparation for this large and important project was secured in advance. There are a number of smaller maintenance projects yet to be completed. Please contact **Rob Nielsen, Property chair**, for ways you can volunteer!

Nominating Committee Report

Secretary Position Open

Our leadership team is still in need of a Council Secretary. The secretary term continues through June of 2021 at which time the appointee would be eligible for a full elected term. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you have been blessed with that could be used in service to the church in this role.

Election Roster to Date

A number of sitting council members are willing to let their names stand for re-election come May. **Treasurer is a position that is termed out. If you have financial experience, please consider serving the Lord's church with that gift!** The nominating committee will continue to seek willing candidates for all positions. If you are moved to serve in any area, whether there is a candidate or not, please make your willingness known to any current council member!

Office	Candidate	Terms Elected	Incumbent
President	Marlis Norton	1	Yes
Treasurer			
Outreach	Julie Rath	1	Yes
Education	Mary Givhan		Yes
Stewardship	Tammy Woolley		Yes
Communications	Jenn Ostermeier	1	Yes
Elder	Glen Leavens		Yes
Elder	Billy Mitchell		No
Elder	Eric Berns		No



Virtual Meeting: Voter Assembly

Our next Voter Assembly is scheduled for **Sunday, May 17, 1pm**. Normally it would have been after second service, but under our current circumstances, we will be promoting a virtual meeting. We will communicate to all congregants the Zoom connection to attend the meeting, the agenda and the method of voting in the coming weeks.

We will not attempt to address the Constitution and Bylaws in this format, but will be conducting election of officers. More to come Now is when our works of faith and in faith are so desperately needed. From being a good citizen and following COVID guidelines to finding ways to **raise up** and bring **newness of life** to our families and communities. This also includes our faithful financial support of our church while we may not be meeting, yet knowing expenses continue. Now would be a grand time to take advantage of e-giving through our website. You can also mail your offerings and tithes to the church in c/o the Financial Secretary.



Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. Sunday via Zoom

We have Persevered and continue our study **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • May 9 (Virtual)

Here's an idea ladies.... how about a Zoom study at 9 a.m. Saturday? We can stay cozy at home in our pjs and enjoy our breakfast and coffee while coming together over the next installment of A Time for Everything based on Ecclesiastes 3:8 - A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; *a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing*; Really?! How appropriate is that?!

Please contact me by email (mnorton6541@gmail.com) if you like the idea and would like a copy of the study via email.

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation • August Meeting Scheduled

The Executive Board is scheduled to meet at St Paul on Wednesday, August 12 provided we are cleared to meet in person. The Regular Meeting with Blanket Brigade will happen at the September meeting. More details to come later.



LWML Cincinnati Zone - Mission in Motion News

This event occurred as a conference call. We got confirmation that the June Ohio District Convention will be a virtual event. Delegates will get voting materials and instructions prior to the event. Our Cincinnati Zone president, Nicole, is chair of the 2021 National Convention Decorations Committee. The **National Convention will be in Lexington**. Please put **June 24-27, 2021** on your calendar now!

Elder Update

Current Ministries

Sunday Zoom 9:00 Bible Study and 10:00 Worship Service

- We hope you have been able to join us for our Sunday morning Bible Study led by Mike Rath and worship services led by Glen Leavens and Pastor Richeson. The last two weeks we had over 20 people attend the Bible study and over 50 people attend the worship service! It was wonderful to see such community in the Lord despite it being over the internet.
- We will continue offering the Bible study and service while we are under the stay-at-home order. Pastor Charles Truax will begin leading services starting May 17th.

Post Stay-at-home Services

- The Elders are reviewing the possible restrictions we may be under even when we are allowed to open the building for worship services, including alternative means of delivering communion. We ordered individually sealed communion wine and bread which will allow each of us to open our own packets during the communion service. We will also evaluate what requirements we may need to implement with regard to seating and the wipe down of our seats after each service.
- We understand there may be those who would like to remain at home for a little while longer after the restrictions are lifted, so we are also looking into ways to continue offering our services over the internet.

Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 3rd will be our last confirmation class for the semester. The students studied how Jesus was true man and God and was sinless and why those were important characteristics of who he is. They also studied the resurrection and how we know it actually took place and the importance of Pentecost. They will start again in the Fall.

Prayer Committee

Billy Mitchell is holding a trial Zoom prayer group this Wednesday night to pray for our members, our church and our call process. Please email me, David Smith, if you are interested in joining him on Wednesday evenings.

Call Committee

The call committee had its first and second meetings on Sunday, April 19 and 26. The first meeting was an organizational meeting in which we walked through the call process with Pastor John Mueller, our circuit counselor. During the second meeting we worked on the congregational questionnaire. This questionnaire is made up mainly of demographic information, but also has questions regarding the activities the church performs, major events over the last 5 years, and our strengths and weaknesses. We focused on answering those questions at the April 26th meeting. During our May 3rd meeting we will be discussing the characteristics of a pastor and the needs of our church.

The committee will take a break on May 10 due to Mother's Day, and will meet again on Sunday, May 17.

Please pray for the call committee.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support.

David Smith, Head elder

210-218-3685

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Update from the Treasurer

As Treasurer one of the duties is to maintain the special collections and designated funds of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Most recently as part of these duties, **a check was sent to GoPantry for \$825.00**. This represents the Sunday School Mission project including additional donations received from the congregation of Good Shepherd in response to a request to help during this time of quarantine and stay at home policies.

The Sunday School Mission Project was established as a Designated Fund a number of years ago. In addition to providing help to GoPantry, this fund has provided Sunday School materials for other areas of the World through two programs sponsored by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Juan 3:16 project for Spanish speaking families, and "Let the Children Come to Me", a Sunday School project for Southeast Asian children.

Monies collected for this fund are given primarily through the Sunday School offerings. If the offering is noted as Sunday School Mission it is automatically recorded in the Sunday School Mission Project Fund. In the past, we have encouraged donations to this fund by the Sunday School children during a special Mission Sunday. Collections specified as Sunday School only are divided evenly between the General Fund for Sunday School expenses and the Mission project.

Thank you for your generous contribution to this and other special collections. This congregation has always worked together in meeting the needs of the community and in teaching the value of giving to its children.

Kathy Meckstroth, Treasurer

"God Is At Work"



Lamentations 3:17-26 - My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD." Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

No matter how tough things may look, the mercies of God are new every day. They are new every day of the year for those who put their trust in Him. Things don't look good in our world right now. In fact, they look bad enough to make some people wonder whether there is a God at all. Others wonder if there is a God does He really care about the world we live in.

When one looks at circumstances and nothing more, it's very easy to get in the frame of mind of the author of Lamentations. For the most part, today's headlines are filled with bad news, and if we're not worried about that, we have our own little worlds to fret about—our families, our jobs, our relationships with the people we work with and live with. It can be overwhelming and oftentimes is.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the true malady behind all our worldly woes is sin. While crises in the world will come and go, leaving their impact on our lives, the sin we carry from birth must be dealt with. This means whether times are good or bad, our sin persists like a cancer that will not go away—unless it is somehow addressed and eliminated.

That's where Jesus comes in.

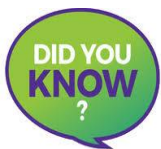
Like a ray of sunlight in the midst of the storm, like the sharp clear note of the trumpet in the howling wind, there is always hope for the nations of the world. Great is the faithfulness of our God. The love of God for the world has never been clearer than in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. In Christ everyone can see the love of God at work.

God acts in Jesus Christ. He was raised from the dead and today He lives. He was raised for you so that you might put your faith and trust in Him, so that you can receive forgiveness for your sins—every last one of them—and so you can know God's full and unconditional pardon for your rebellion.

God's mercies are new today and every day. In Christ there is a new start, a fresh start. There is forgiveness and the power to be what you could never be without Him—a new creation redeemed by God and given hope to face whatever you encounter in this world.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we have a lot to deal with in this life. Give us courage to face the day and a heart of faith to weather the storms of this world—through You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

From "New Mercies for the New Year," a sermon excerpt from Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, former Speaker of The Lutheran Hour



From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Archives

Leading up to the 25th Anniversary, facts about of Good Shepherd will be included in each edition of the newsletter.



1999

Church Library Opens

- * First Junior Choir
- * Puppet Ministry Team Organized
- * First Senior High Joint Youth Group sponsors "Youth Blitz"

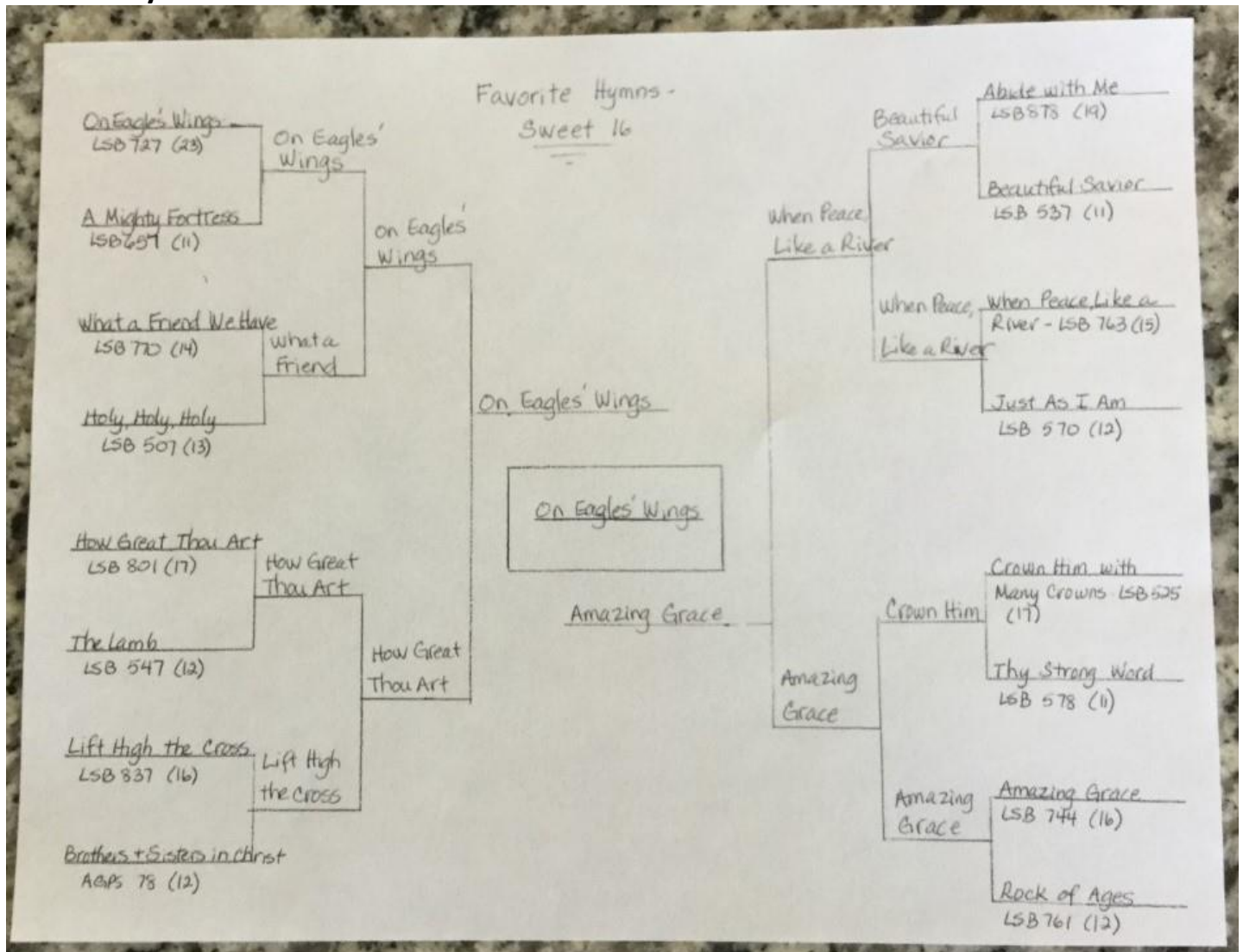
2000

- * Pastor Gil Duchow accepts call from Good Shepherd to serve as full-time Pastor
- * Celebration of Fifth Anniversary of (advertised) Worship Service

2001

- * Good Shepherd votes to have two services on Sunday because of growth
- * Good Shepherd wins Mayor's Trophy at Florence Y'All Parade

Favorite Hymns Sweet 16



Thank you to all who submitted brackets for Favorite Hymns—Sweet 16. These 16 hymns have been perennial favorites at Good Shepherd, and I know some of the choices were hard to make. I hope you all enjoyed singing these hymns as you made your selections.

The winning hymn is *On Eagles' Wings*. And Debbie Fitzpatrick is our winner! Honorable mention for 2nd place to Becky Aragon and 3rd place to Bill Shaw, and Leroy Raap as the only person to correctly select all 8 winners in the first round. I look forward to singing these hymns with you all, in person, in the future. Kim Leaven

Good Shepherd family,
I am so very thankful for the support and caring friendship from so many of the congregation during a most difficult time. Reiner was aware of all the love and care and was appreciative—even though he wasn't always able to show it.
Christian love,
Linda Kuhn

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us...

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

The family of
Rustin Olson

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd,

Psalm 146:9 reminds us that the Lord upholds the widow and the fatherless. Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement and monetary gift. Thank you also for all the cards, thoughts and prayers. These are visible examples of how the Lord is caring for Lia, Josie, Oliver and me. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

In Christ,
Megan, Lia, Josie + Oliver



Art work by Kim Leavens



William and Caroline Regan



Leah O'Grady



Nora, Abby and Leah



Nora O'Grady



The Olson Family



Crosses displayed at Marlis's house





The Brann Family



The Woolley Family



The Vonderlag Family



Julie Rath



Palm Sunday at the O'Grads

**National Administrative Assistance Day
Thank you Lynn for all you do for us**



**Julie Rath made
COVID19 Masks**



The new roof is installed over the sanctuary and the original building. The gutter guards will be installed the week of May 3rd and then it will be complete. Pastors office and the confrence room has been repainted lights installed and light switches moved and replaced, Thank you Jerry Fitzpatrick and Dave Smith!! The old hallway into the sanctuary is being repaired from the water damage. On Saturday May 30th we will be having a post COVID19 church beautification work party (if we are back to the new

normal).

The following items we will need volunteers for to complete.

1. Paint both bathrooms in The Family life Center.
2. Install smoke Alarms/Carbon monoxide detectors in the basement.
3. Power wash Sanctuary siding.
4. Replace door seals on entrance doors.
5. Replace exit lights in building
6. Install water detector in basement.

These items also can be done anytime if you wish to accomplish a task.

Any questions or to sign-up contact Rob Nielsen.





2021 Convention

LWML 39th Biennial Convention Information



Date: June 24–27, 2021

Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus

Leland Woolley	May 2
Morgan Daniels	May 4
Adrian Daniels	May 4
PFC Paul Leavens	May 6
Tammy Vaughan	May 12
Alan Duane	May 13
Brittany Vonderlage	May 18
George Beck	May 26
Karen Sladen	May 26
Judy Stetler	May 28

It Is Well With My Soul” – The story behind the song



This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first two were the death of his four-year-old son and the [Great Chicago Fire](#) of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire).^[2] His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the [SS Ville du Havre](#). In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the [Atlantic Ocean](#), the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the [Loch Earn](#), and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.^[3] Bliss called his tune *Ville du Havre*, from the name of the stricken vessel.^[4]

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know^a
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain

It is well, (it is well),
 With my soul, (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
 If Jordan above me shall roll,
 No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
 Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul!

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
 The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
 Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
 Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – May 2020**

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity.” (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God’s gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. We should support the Lord’s work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



A Mother's Prayer For You

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.
I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.
And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I {thank} the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!
~ Anon.

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