



October 15, 2023

Celebration Sunday

The Generosity Project: Part 1

You are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

Entrance Hymn — no. 583, *join in on the refrain*

“Take My Life, That I May Be”
Led by the Jeremiah Band

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord.

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*

y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**
Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others. For the harm we have
caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others**

**and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right
path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our
Savior. Amen.**
Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches
beyond all understanding. God's compassion is
beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always
making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, we are
already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God of generosity, you have filled the whole Earth with abundance. Call on us to be good stewards of the Earth’s resources so that all creatures - great and small - may thrive. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of thankful hearts and giving spirits, through Jesus Christ, our example of generosity. **Amen.**

Being Generous: The WHY

we LISTEN

Reading — Genesis 1:27-31a

“So, God created humans in God’s own image; God made men and women. God gave them a blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds. God looked at all that was created. All of it was very good!”

Grace-filled Word for creating generous hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk it Out — Your Story, My Story

Share your responses to the following questions:

- How is God generous in this story?
- If someone is made in God’s image, how do they act?
- How do you mirror God? When? What are the characteristics you possess?

Reach Out

Now we are going to view a “glocal” story about generosity – a story that takes place in Thailand. The story is about a kind man who practices a faith other than our Christian faith.

Now, we will transition to conversation time at your tables. You are invited to welcome the stories of every generation seated at your table.

- How was this man generous?
- How would you describe this man’s character?

we SHARE

Center it — Remember It — Connect It

This is a time for creating a “centerpiece” as a reminder of God’s Story that can be placed on our tables at home.

- Using modeling clay, create your word: men, women, child, fish, a bird, favorite animal, fruit and grain, or green plant. Once done, place all creations on the paper plate that says “God.” [Write the word “God” on your plate using a marker.]
- Put the paper plate in the center of your table to remind you of the story.

As your hands are busy making your creation, discuss the following:

- How as one of God's "stewards," do you care for others and creation?
- What is one thing you will do differently this week because you are made to mirror God's image and blessed by God to be generous?
- Once you have discussed at your table, you will have an opportunity to share with everyone what you created and what you discussed!

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

"Holy, Holy, Holy" — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, pg. 10

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember Christ - our example of good stewardship - who taught us to pray: **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Jesus invites you to this table with no exception. Come, eat and live.

Distribution of Communion

"Lamb of God" — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, pg. 13

Reflection — "All That We Have to Give"

Setting by Larry Olson/David Lee Brown
Steve Kidder


Prayer After Communion

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

we SEND

Announcements

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,




all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Pray

Let's pray together.
 Thank you, God, for all that grows.
Thank you for your promise, seen in rainbows.
 Thank you, God, for stars that shine.
Thank you for these friends of mine.
 Thank you, God, for the moon and sun.
Thank you for all that's given – for everyone!
 Help us, Lord, to learn to share,
To be more generous everywhere. Amen.

Bless

Turn to at least two others. With their permission, make the sign of the cross on the forehead or in the palm of the hand, and say, “(Insert name), you are created in the image of a generous God.”

We are made in the image of God! **We are made in the image of God!**
 God is a generous God! **God is a generous God!**
 We are made to be generous, too! **We are made to be generous, too!**
 Go, be a blessing to others as you serve God with grace-filled, generous hearts and hands. **Amen!**

we LIVE

Take it Home/Live It Out

After sharing fellowship time, take your centerpieces home with you as visual reminders of God's Story and our time together.

- Practice this week the songs we sang and our closing prayer – in the car, mealtimes and bedtime.

- Bless one another when leaving or returning to your home each day.
- Call, text, or email at least one person at your table who is outside of your family, with their permission, to bless one another this week.
- Review the last page of the bulletin - a worksheet to continue reflecting on generosity!

Fellowship Music — “Everybody’s Got Something to Offer”

Setting by Larry Olson
Jeremiah Band

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris	Greeter: Brett Petersen	Communion Preparers: Banks Family
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat	Reader: Judy and David Fienen	Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau, Sharon Domeier
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers	Ushers: John Nadeau, Tom Thorkelson	Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart
Musicians: Jeremiah Band		

Announcements

- Thanks to our youth worship assistants, who are starting their rotation for the fall! Your help during worship, along with the help of everyone who signs up, is very appreciated! Please sign up to help after church today.
- If you forgot your Estimate of Giving card, please drop them off in the church office.
- There have been some unexpected delays regarding the repairs to the organ. (NO RECITAL TODAY) With that, Chad’s recital has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. Stay tuned!
- FLC is hosting an awareness seminar to prepare us in case of an active shooter at the church, Saturday, Nov 18th from 10am–1pm. This is especially important for Council members, ushers, greeters or any members who wish to have preparedness training. This event is free for FLC Members, see posters in the halls for how to register. Registration is open to the public. Contact Dawn Wenner with questions.
- There will be an opportunity to have your photo taken for the directory here at FLC on Oct 23 from 2:00-8:30 p.m. Please check our website for more details on how to register.
- Pastor Chris will be out of the office from Oct 18 - 24. Please call the church office should an emergency arise.
- Resurrection Cemetery Clean-up day is October 20 at 9am, please bring gloves and rakes!
- The Original State Peter State Hospital Cemetery Memorial ceremony will be October 27 at 9am. Contact Beth Zabel at beth.m.zabel@state.mn.us or 507-985-2249 to register for a tour that day.
- Fall Outdoor Clean Up at church on October 28th at 9am.

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, and Jim Wendroth.

LIVE IT OUT!



Being Generous: The WHY

Conversation Goal

Identify this household's giving patterns and practices

Conversation #1

Our Household Identity and Story

Do your family members know how much you share and give of your financial wealth? With so many methods available to exchange currency, it is easy for the significance of giving to be overlooked and unknown to one another. Research shows children learn sound financial health and generosity when they see parents and significant adults model this as a priority in their lives.

If you do not already have an established pattern of giving, consider a conversation to discuss when and how you as a household might begin.

Key Question

Does each person in this household know how we share and are generous with what we have been given?

Discussion Prompts

- How does this household talk about money? What words do we use?
- Who decides how we distribute our money, especially related to regular giving?
- What is tithing? Do we do it? (Use the internet to look up the word and meaning)
- Do we support a church or institution of faith? Organizations or other causes?
- Do we have an emergency fund? Are we saving for college, vacation, house repairs, retirement, etc.?
- What are our household's essential expenditures for living? Which ones are Wants? Which ones are Needs?
- How much of our spending is influenced by advertising?
- Why do we share? Give?

God's Story Genesis 1:27-31a (CEV). "So, God created humans in God's own image; God made men and women. God gave them a blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds. God looked at all that was created. All of it was very good!"

Affirmation + Blessing

I am created in the image of a generous God. I give because I want to mirror a generous God.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.