



# November 19, 2023

## The Generosity Project: Parts 2 & 3

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 the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful**  
**image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
**Amen.**

“Kyrie” and “Now the Feast and Celebration” — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, pg. 3

## Prayer of the Day

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

God of generosity, we are invited into spiritual practices with you in our homes, places of work, and here at church. We are called to be your disciples in the world and to serve your people each day. Help us to share our abundance with our neighbors - friends and strangers - so that we may serve others in your name, through Jesus Christ, our example of generosity. **Amen.**

## Being Generous: The WHO & The WHERE

# we LISTEN

### Reading — Acts 2:41-47

On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

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

### Reading — John 6:1-14

Jesus crossed Lake Galilee, which was also known as Lake Tiberius. A large crowd had seen him work miracles to heal the sick, and those people went with him. It was almost time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples and sat down. When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?" He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?" Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, "There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?" The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves. After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, "This must be the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

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:

- What is your favorite meal to serve to friends gathered at your house or order when out with friends or family?
- What is the best part of sharing a meal with friends? Eating a meal with your family?
- Where is your favorite place to gather with friends?

## Reach Out

Now we are going to listen to a “glocal” story about generosity – a book called *Mama Panya’s Pancakes*.

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 are God’s Story and the story we just received similar? Different?

# 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.*

- In the middle of the table are paper plates, one for each person, and markers. On the plate write words or draw a “gift” you possess that can be shared with others.
- Your gift could be something you know how to do, like coloring or playing the guitar, or knowledge you have about a subject, like gardening or caring for a pet. Your gift could also be a talent like singing, or a skill like playing computer games, that God uses to bless others.
- On the back of the plate, write or draw one way you could use that gift as a spiritual practice in your daily living. For example, if you like to garden, you could use that gardening time for prayer or meditation. Or, you could set aside a portion of your garden for food that will be donated or given away.

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

- What gift or gifts do you have to offer?
- How could the church, a school, or your workplace use your gift(s)?
- What is one thing you will do differently this week because you are God’s church?

## 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

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus’ table. All are welcome here.

## Distribution of Communion

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

### Refrain — “Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”

Sing the text “Eat this bread” twice, then sing the text “Jesus Christ, bread of life” twice

The musical score is for a refrain in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and has two staves: a vocal line and a guitar line. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger." The second system also has two staves: a vocal line and a guitar line. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

### Reflection — “Where Justice Rolls Down”

by Stomberg, Carlson and Donley  
Steve Kidder, voice and guitar

## Prayer After Communion

Holy Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

# we SEND

## Announcements

**Sending Hymn** — no. 866, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* “We Are Grateful for the Love of God”  
Sung to the tune SIYAHAMBA

1. We are grateful for the love of God, we are grateful for the love of God. (repeat)  
We are grateful, we are grateful (oh), we are grateful for the love of God. (repeat)
2. We are serving with the love of God, we are serving with the love of God. (repeat)  
We are serving, we are serving (oh), we are serving with the love of God. (repeat)
3. We are loving in the light of God, we are loving in the light of God. (repeat)  
We are loving, we are loving (oh), we are loving in the light of God. (repeat)

## 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 two pages of this bulletin - worksheets to continue reflecting on generosity!

## Fellowship Music — “God of the Harvest”

by Larry Olson and Karol Baer  
Jeremiah Band

## **Acknowledgements**

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers, Jacob Little  
Musicians: Jeremiah Band

Greeters: Stewardship Committee, Ivy McHugh,  
Michelle Doose  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Laird Bly, John Nadeau  
Reader: Barb Wilkinson

Communion Preparers: Annalise Rivas, Dave  
Kennedy  
Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Cindy  
Nadeau, John Malm  
Bread Bakers: Cheryl Kautt

### Announcements

- Due to changes in staffing, the church office will only be open from 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday through Friday. You may leave a voicemail message at: 507-934-3060. Please email us at: [flcstpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcstpoffice@gmail.com). We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of transition.
- Please join us after the service for our soup and chili cook-off and dessert auction!
- You are invited to an ISAIAH Forum today from 2:30- 4:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church 110 N 4th Street Mankato MN. Rep. Jeff Brand, Rep. Luke Frederick and Senator Nick Frenz will be there to listen to your ideas about what they should work on in the next legislative session. Rep. Brand and Senator Frenz have delivered legislation about Climate Change and Forever chemicals last session. Rep. Luke Frederick is focused on mental health. To register contact Ellen Conover at [markellenconover@gmail.com](mailto:markellenconover@gmail.com). ISAIAH is a Minnesota faith based organization that works with local elected officials to provide legislation for racial, economic, and climate justice.
- You are invited to our ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service this Wednesday, Nov 22 at 7:00 p.m. here at First Lutheran. A community choir will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the balcony to prepare for this special community worship! Offerings from this service will be directed to help the needy in our community.
- All youth in Grades 8 - 12 are invited to register for the National Youth Gathering which will take place in New Orleans from July 16 - 20, 2024. Please contact Calleigh if you have any questions: [cc.flcstp@gmail.com](mailto:cc.flcstp@gmail.com)
- Please pick up a copy of the minutes from our last Annual Meeting from January 29, 2023. Our next Annual Meeting will follow worship on Dec. 3rd. We will elect Council members, vote on updating FLC's constitution and take a first look at our proposed budget for 2024. Please make sure to attend this very important meeting!
- We are looking for actors to participate in our Live Nativity which will run from 5:00 - 8:00pm on Saturday, Dec. 9th. We will receive donations to benefit our St. Peter Area Food Shelf.
- Pastor Chris will be out of the office from Nov. 25 - Dec. 1. For emergencies during this time, please call Pastor Andrew Davis (Union Presbyterian) at 507-995-1820.

### 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, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, Jim Wendroth, and Ruth Edberg.
- We pray for the family of Gene Roemhildt, who died on Oct 15. His funeral was held on Nov 9 at FLC.
- We pray for Shanon Nowell and her family at the death of her father-in-law, Allen Storkson, who died on Nov. 1.

# LIVE IT OUT!



## Connecting Generations: Conversation Goal The WHO

Identify and celebrate the people of all ages who are examples of generosity that surround this household.

### Conversation #2

#### Ripples of Generosity

*Who are the models of generosity for you? Have you been the recipients of the generosity of others? Who are the extended family members or friends who have shared their time, talent or wealth with you? Recall and name beloved friends, community members and others whose generosity have shaped your life. Listen to one another's stories. Make a photo collage of people who have impacted your life in big ways and small ways. If living, send them a note expressing your appreciation.*

#### Key Question

Who has given generously to us?

#### Discussion Prompts

- When have we been recipients of the generosity of others?
- For whose generosity am I most thankful?
- What are the giving patterns over the generations in our family? Do we want to change these patterns in some way?
- Does the giving of others inspire us to be generous?
- Does one's age matter in acting generously?

**God's Story John 6:1-14 (CEV).** "When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, 'Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?' He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?' Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples. He spoke up and said, 'There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread, and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?' The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down. About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves. After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, 'This must be the Prophet who is come into the world!'"

#### Affirmation + Blessing

God has blessed us through the abundant generosity of others. We will joyfully share what God has provided us.



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

# LIVE IT OUT!



## Equipping Households: The WHERE

### Conversation Goal

Identify all the places and ways this household can practice generosity.

### Conversation #3

#### Where Do We Practice Generosity?

*One only needs to read or hear the news to know there are many communities of faith, organizations, people, and places that could benefit from acts of generosity. The great needs of the world need attention and heart-felt care. Take some time to identify the places that stir your passion for giving. All ages can find ways and places to share.*

#### Key Question

Where are all the places and what are all the ways we could be generous with our treasure (money), time, and talents?

#### Discussion Prompts

- What issues or concerns are most important to each of us? This household?
- What or who compels us most deeply to give?
- What are the ways we can support those issues and needs we most care about in addition to our financial gifts? (Ex. recycling)
- What is the difference between charity and generosity? *(Do a web search if unsure.)*
- What do we need to do and know to practice responsible and wise generous giving?

**God's Story Acts 2:41-47 (CEV).** "On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved."

#### Affirmation + Blessing

God equips us and has given us many opportunities to give and share at home and away from home.



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