



November 9

Blessings: Our Ability to Give

READ: What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me? Psalm 116:12

REFLECT: Life itself is a gift from our gracious and generous Creator. We have been blessed in so many ways: the gift of faith, relationships with loved ones, and this community of faith. Our financial resources are also blessings that can be used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As God's stewards, we have varied amounts of money to manage. God remains the source and owner of all that we have, yet we are given freedom to use our blessings as we choose.

The Psalmist responds in gratitude – and we have the same opportunity. *Covering Our Church in Love* invites us to reflect on our blessings and what portion we will share as we give thanks through our gifts.

Pray: For guidance in deciding what portion of all God has provided to set aside for our *Covering Our Church in Love* Stewardship & Capital Campaign.

Campaign Update: Please be sure and pick up your campaign packet after worship today. Thank you to 24 households that have already pledged nearly \$300,000!

October 25

SCRIPTURE & MONEY

READ: *Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce....* Proverbs 3: 9-10

REFLECT: As we celebrate the Reformation, we remember the important work of Martin Luther in making sure all people had access to Scripture and that it was translated into their common language. In scripture, there are 2200 references to possessions, money, and wealth. In comparison, there are 1400 references to prayer, love, and believing combined. Although we may be tempted to want to separate faith from finances, scripture reminds us that our use of money is very much a spiritual matter.

Martin Luther, once wrote that "there are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse." Of these three, it may well be that we find the conversion of the purse to be the most difficult.

PRAY: That God will continually convert our hearts, our minds, and our purses and wallets!

Campaign Update: Our Advance Visits and Gatherings have begun. If you would like a personal visit to learn more about the campaign, please contact one of our General Chairpersons. John Kind, David Krause or Pastor Melanie.

October 19

Creation: Our Need to Give

READ: So God created humans in his image. Genesis 1:27

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

REFLECT: The story of creation proclaims that we are God's handiwork. We have been created in God's image. What does this mean? For one thing, it suggests that we are created to be in relationship – with our Creator and with others. None of us is self-made. Everything that we have, and every breath that we take, is a gift from God. And, from the very first partnership between Adam and Eve, we were meant to care for one another. We are not meant to “go it alone.” We are created to be in relationship.

We are also created to be givers. After all, God is the greatest Giver of all. God did not stop giving – even when it meant the life and death of Jesus. Created in God's image, we are meant to be givers.

PRAY: To follow God's plan that we give for the sake of others.

Campaign Update: Our Stewardship & Capital Campaign is underway! To schedule a personal visit to learn more, or if you'd like to help with the campaign, please contact General Chairpersons: John Kind: 507-330-5223 or David Krause: 507-317-1923 or David.Krause@bankwithpioneer.com or Pastor Melanie.