

**A WONDER-FULL LIFE WORSHIP SERIES**  
Looking at Money and Meaning

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." — John 10:10b*

**First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint**  
**October 10, 2021**

**Week One: "Looking Back"**

Spiritual practice feeds that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love and joy. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. In this four week series, we will "look" squarely in the face of our money issues in compassionate ways that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a wonderful life.

## GATHERING: COMPASSION

*As we open our eyes and come out of any avoidance we have regarding our feelings about money, we light a candle and ask God to be with us on this journey. We pray for fresh perspectives that can shift any “dis-ease” that holds us back from a courageous vision about our money paths. We have compassion for ourselves and each other because the systems of money we live in are not easy to navigate.*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

## Gathering In Christ's Light

*Leader:* The relationship of money practices and faith was as complex in Jesus’ day as it is in ours. ...

And so, in this worship series, we will light a special candle each week, asking God to illumine the shadowy corners of our lives where unspoken yet powerful fears reside.

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,  
**there is understanding;**  
where there is understanding,  
**there is compassion;**  
where there is compassion,  
**there is possibility;**  
where there is possibility;  
**there is transformation.**

Holy and Living God,  
transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.  
**Open us to this light,  
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us  
for a “wonder-full” life.**

Opening Hymn/Song:

“Christ, Be Our Light”

(ELW 715 v. 1)

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your". The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics: "church gath - ered to - day." and ends with a double bar line.

**WORD: CURIOSITY**

*We become curious—full of “wonder-ing”—further transforming our tendencies of avoiding money issues into a desire to learn more, know more, about the systems of money and our own relationship to it. We explore what our faith story invites us to do about the systems of money in which we find ourselves.*

*Reader:* Our relationship with money has a history as long as our lives ....

May we prepare our hearts for the scripture this day:

**\*Gospel Acclamation: “A Wonder Full Life Song”**

Two-part round

① **Easy, flowing** ♩ = 92

To be full of love, to be full of grace,  
Giv-ing o - thers love, giv-ing o - thers grace,

②

to be full of peace is a won-der full life.  
giv-ing o - thers peace is a won-der full life.

Music & Lyrics: Marcia McFee  
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arr. Jason Shelton

**\*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22 (CEB)**

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are genuine and that you teach God’s way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people’s opinions, because you don’t show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, “Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax.” And they brought him a denarion. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked. “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

This is a Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon - A Word for All Ages

### The Word in Music (Song of the Day): “It Is Well” (ELW 785) (v 1 & 3)

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

### RESPONDING: CREATIVITY

*This part of the service helps us to “wonder” in a different way. We invite a state of awe at the abundance of our lives by noticing the “rich” beauty around us, the presence of “treasured” people, and new and unexpected “gems” that cross our paths. We commit to engage our creativity to multiply good in the world.*

### Prayers of Intercession (The Wonder of It All):

Let us continue our prayers:

Creating God,  
for the awesome wonders of creation, the abundant feast of family and friends,  
the plentiful riches of your presence among us, We give thanks.

We are so grateful, O God, for... [*continue with particular blessings in your community*]

Loving God,  
for those times that feel rife with heartbreak, too much stress and too little assurance,  
a plethora of pain and not enough possibility, Be with us.

We lift to You, O God... *[continue with particular concerns in your community]*

Gracious God,  
for those times when our contributions bring more negativity than positivity,  
more resentment than forgiveness, more breaking down than lifting up,  
Forgive us.

In this silence we open the books of our hearts and make an accounting...

*[silence]*

Already we know you have balanced the ledgers through Christ Jesus.  
O God, you hold nothing against us. You forgive all debts.  
We are so deeply grateful and we commit to creating more good in the world in your  
name. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, (like waving from your location) and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

**Offering Witness** - *What do you inspire you to wonder? Where do you see God's abundance overflowing in your life? Through the church?*

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*You may share your offering as you leave today or give online through our  
<https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

*The offering plates are in the front corners and near the exit doors.*

**\*Doxology**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**\*Offering Prayer-**

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

Looking back, we see the generosity of those who came before us,  
acknowledging their hardships and struggles,  
their joys and gains that bring us to the place we are now.

In looking back, help us to build a foundation for those who will look back at *our* lives,  
those who will be affected by what we do, what we offer, what we give.

Help us to rejoice in the knowledge that lives are being changed now and in the future  
because of what we are able to do with this collective offering.

In the name of the one who calls us to the loyalty of justice, Jesus the Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH: COMMITMENT

*Having walked with God in “looking” into our heart’s relationship to money, we commit to take the practices out into the world and our daily lives with renewed compassion, curiosity and creativity.*

### \*Sending Hymn/Song: “What have we to offer?” (Makeever) 2 verses



1 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to share?  
 2 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to bring?  
 3 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to give?



Coins from the cof - fer,      hearts filled with care.  
 Love, ripe with laugh - ter;      hope that we can sing;  
 Eyes that are wide o - pen;      lies that we won't live;



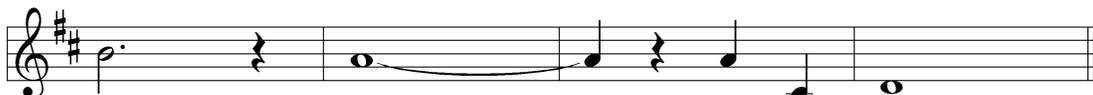
God will not fal - ter;      so let us dare  
 dreams of what we're af - ter;      prom - is - es of when.  
 truth that must be spo - ken;      jus - tice some - how.



lay it at the al - tar      there.  
 Lay it at the al - tar      then.  
 Lay it at the al - tar      now.



4 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to



give?      Lives      we will live.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: LET US ENTER IN: OFFERTORY, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## **Blessing of LWR Quilts**

### **\*Benediction**

“Bread! That this house may never know hunger.  
Salt! That life may always have flavor.  
And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever.”

All of those symbols carry messages from our faith journey:

The Bread of Life is the true sustenance that God provides.  
The Fruit of the Vine is the love poured out by Jesus—  
a sign of the never-ending grace that is ours now and always.  
And we have been called to be Salt of the Earth,  
so that all might savor the spice of life  
that is the Holy Spirit’s presence among us.

You have been reminded of these things here in this time together,  
Now go in peace. Serve the Lord!,  
**for it IS “a wonderful life!”**

## **Postlude**

### **Worship Notes**

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Worship design and liturgy adapted from Worship Design Studio  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com). Used with permission.

### **Worship Team:**

Piano- Colleen Culwell

Pastors - Lori Morton and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

### **Office Contact Information: T & Th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

208-263-2048 [office@firstlutheransandpoint.org](mailto:office@firstlutheransandpoint.org)

**Prayers** -Jack and Darlene Dickman, Cathy Bradetich, Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Gene Dillon, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Dar Cogswell, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Betty Mitchell, George Marker, Chris Ingham; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier,; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

All healthcare workers and facilities trying to offer care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nations and Communities in crisis and the relief efforts by organizations like ELCA Disaster Response and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and U.S. Military personnel serving the people impacted.

**Fellowship:** We are temporarily suspending the food and coffee aspect of Fellowship time after the service, until the rate of Covid-19 community transmission decreases for two weeks straight. This includes Holy Communion.

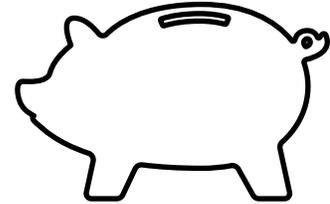
**Mini-Revolution:** Weekly deeper dive into scripture lessons from Sunday emailed to you for individual, family, and small groups. Pastor Lori will meet with folks after service, under the entrance (nearest the office) to discuss. She is open to suggestions for other times that might work for those interested.

**Organ Console Committee:** The Council appointed this committee in response to an opportunity to acquire a used organ console. Our current organ is nearing the end of its life and we have experts in our congregation, who can help reduce the cost of repair. Thank you for your feedback and for your financial pledges in support of this project. The next steps will be to make a recommendation to the Council. Please talk to Jim Carlson, Scott Youngren, Jean Cafferty, Bob Thurston or Jim Payne with feedback, pledges or questions.

## Nurturing Faith

October 10, 17, 24, and November 14

Through worship and small group discussions, we will look at our relationship with money through the lens of scripture and the movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*. The series is inspired by the book, *Integrating Money and Meaning* by Maggie Kulyk and Liz McGeachy. While you do not have to purchase the book to participate (Pastor Lori will print some of the key pages for the small group discussion), reading the book will help you go deeper into the spiritual role money has in our life of faith. The church has three copies for people to purchase (\$15) or borrow. A workbook can be purchased to support your spiritual practices at this website or favorite book seller. <https://www.integratingmoneyandmeaning.com>.



In support of our visual experience of worship, we would like pictures you have taken in response to your awe and wonder of God's abundance in the world. Either print them out 8x10 or send digital copies. We will keep adding to our display as we receive your contributions. They will be displayed in the worship space.

Also, watch *It's A Wonderful Life* before October 10. The dialog and characters will be woven into our worship and study.

Pastor Lori will lead two opportunities on Thursdays (10 a.m. at FLC in the fellowship hall and 7 pm on Zoom) to discuss the spiritual practices and questions raised during this series. There are copies of the reflection sheets in the narthex. They will also be emailed to our community list. The discussions will happen October 14, 21, and November 11.

## **Covid - 19 Protocols:**

With the increasing rate of infection in the area, we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks inside. North Idaho healthcare systems are in a Crisis Status. Therefore, we are practicing the following protocols for groups gatherings:

- Practice physical distancing: 6' spacing between family/ friend groups while seated or standing inside, unless invited to sit with the other group.
- Communion is temporarily suspended until the community spread declines for two weeks.
- Use Hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entry for all congregants.
- All extended conversations please conduct outside.
- Please respect everyone's choices and desire to be healthy and to feel safe while worshiping together.
- Use our online worship resources and stay home if you have any symptoms (even if you think it is just allergies, coughing, congestion, headache, etc.)
- We are singing a few verses of the hymns. Humming is preferred. If you do sing, please wear a mask.

Thank you for your cooperation and care of one another.