St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.
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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

Our mission:
to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ, honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.

Welcome. "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the **first fruits** of everything your land produces." (Prov. 3:9) Today is the second Sunday in a 3-week series focusing on Biblical stewardship. The second principle behind our offerings concerns the discipline of what is commonly known as "first fruits giving". We support the LORD's work of sharing the Gospel, not with our leftovers but rather with the first portion of our labors. Like all good habits, it takes time and trust and lots of encouragement to develop this disciplined kind of giving. Praise God, we have a Savior in Jesus who is patient with us. With his help, we can experience the greater joy that comes with faithful service (Lk. 16:10)!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

PREPARATION

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

BAPTISM Mika Eloisa DiGaetano (p. 268)

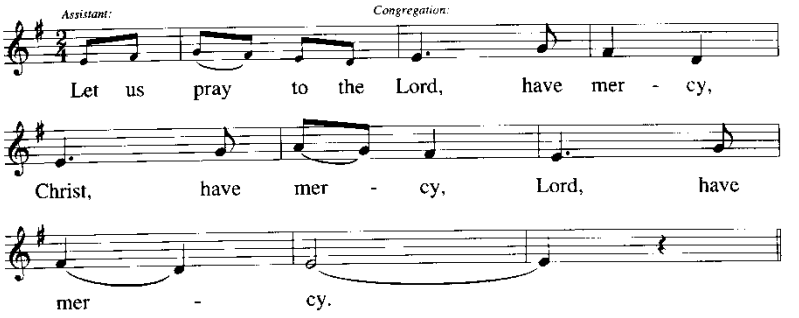
CHILDREN'S CHURCH BLESSING AND SENDING

BAPTISMAL HYMN 593 See This Wonder in the Making (sing "her" where indicated)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy* *Mark 10:47*

Pastor: In peace, in peace,



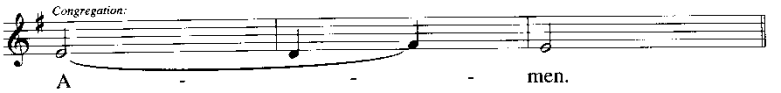
Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all… (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word… (Refrain)

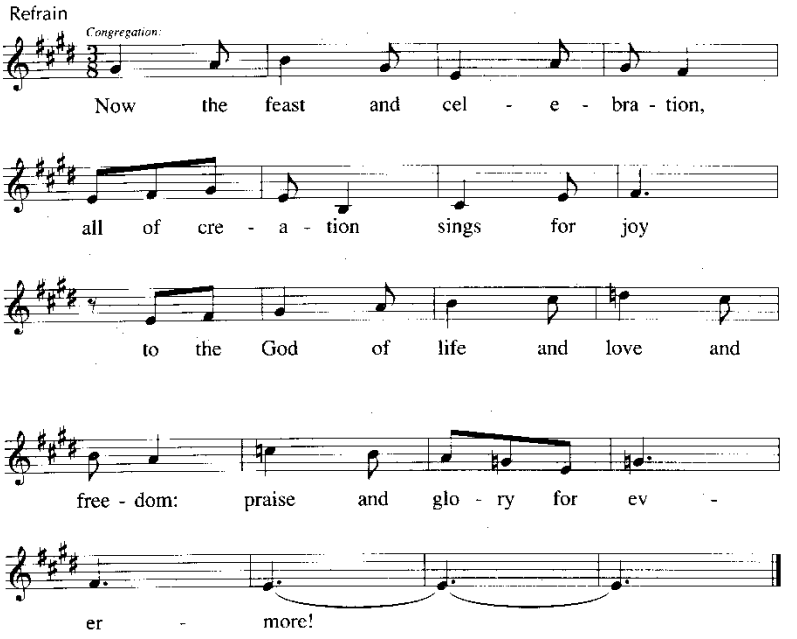
Pastor:



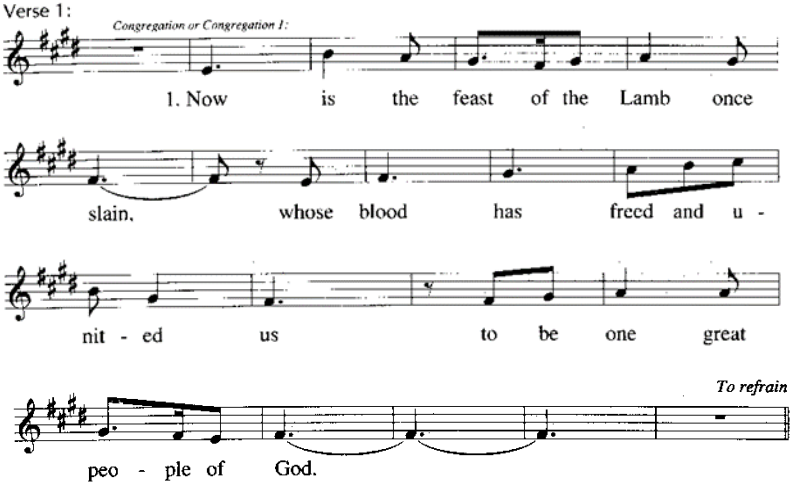
Cong:



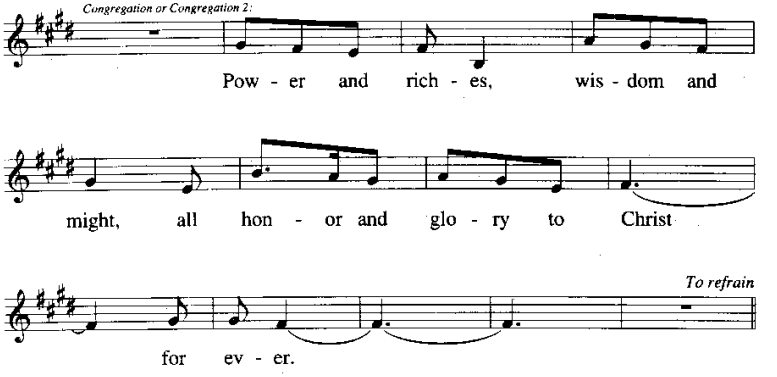
NOW THE FEAST



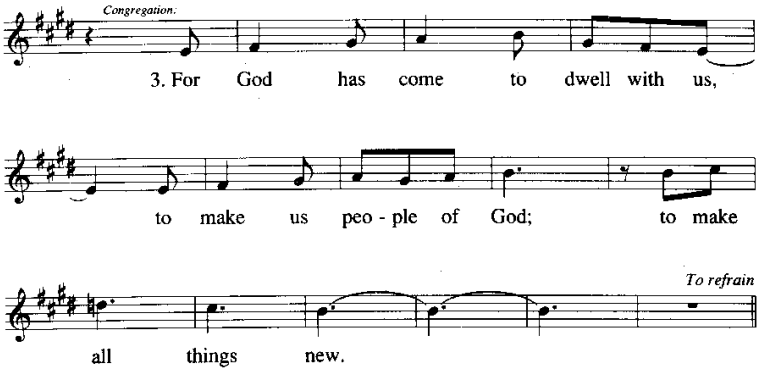
Verse 1:



Verse 2



Verse 3



SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
Almighty God, heavenly Father,
You have called us to be Your children
and heirs of your gracious promises in Christ Jesus.
Grant us Your Holy Spirit
that we may forsake all covetous desires
and the inordinate love of riches.
Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things
that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son
and trust in His righteousness
and so find blessedness and peace;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen**



OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, **2** take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name **3** and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." **4** The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. **5** Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. **6** But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. **7** Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. **8** So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. **9** He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; **10** and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. **11** Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

PSALM: Psalm 112 (read responsively)

P: Praise the LORD!
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!

**C: His offspring will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will
be blessed.**

P: Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**C: Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

P: It is well with the man who deals generously
and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.

**C: For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.**

P: He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

**C: His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph on
his adversaries.**

P: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

**C: The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked will perish!**

All: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

EPISTLE: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. [16] I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, [18] may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, [19] and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

[20] Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSE:



HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 16:10-13

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest
with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling
worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with
someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be
devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY 784 Take My Life and Let It Be

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P …Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

The Flemming family	death of John	Teschke
The Quaglietta family	death of Vito	Garrow

For those with health concerns:

Carol Farley	Shirley Yost	Sadie Bloom	George Brooks	Jan
Nathan Wilhelm	Olivia Moorhead	Bill Hotaling	Patricia Farley	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Jeanine	Claire
Mark McCracken	Barbara Nixon	Jeff Corelli	Penny	Beverly
Lucy Borden	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Carlie	Dawn R.
Judy Dito	Harry Naylor	Asta Lynch	Susan	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Betty Bush	Frank Lynch	Zane	Sid
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Liz Schorpp	Grant	
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Doug Schorpp	Noah	
Robert Mason	Kim Robinson	Rich Mount	Nancy	
Emma Finan	Neuza Smukler	Eric Teschke	Tim	

For those with cancer:

Bob Maguire	Abby Schreil	Gerry Campbell	Herb Johns	Mary Anne
Howard Zahn	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Arlene Z.	Nancy Gilliand	Aunt Jean	Dave Elison	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Paula Hawk	Debra Mueller	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Sally Ashmen	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Mary Ann Stein	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Michael B.	Dana
John Farley	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Lynn J.	Trudy
Elvis Rowsey	Richard Lum	Robert Miller	Doris	Jason
Chris Legere	Barry Higgins	Jan Moreau	Dora	

For those serving in the armed forces and their families:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Christopher Ryan Callahan
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Jim Buckman	Mike Bahney	

For those with needs around the world:

Seeing Eye program — For dogs' successful training and placement
Victims of flooding and weather disasters — For safety and provision

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families — For the strong start of school year

Birthdays:

Maryann Reside Nov 19 — Madelyn O'Connor Nov 20

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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

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

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary…
C **Amen.**

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy* *(LSB p. 208)* *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord* *John 20:19*

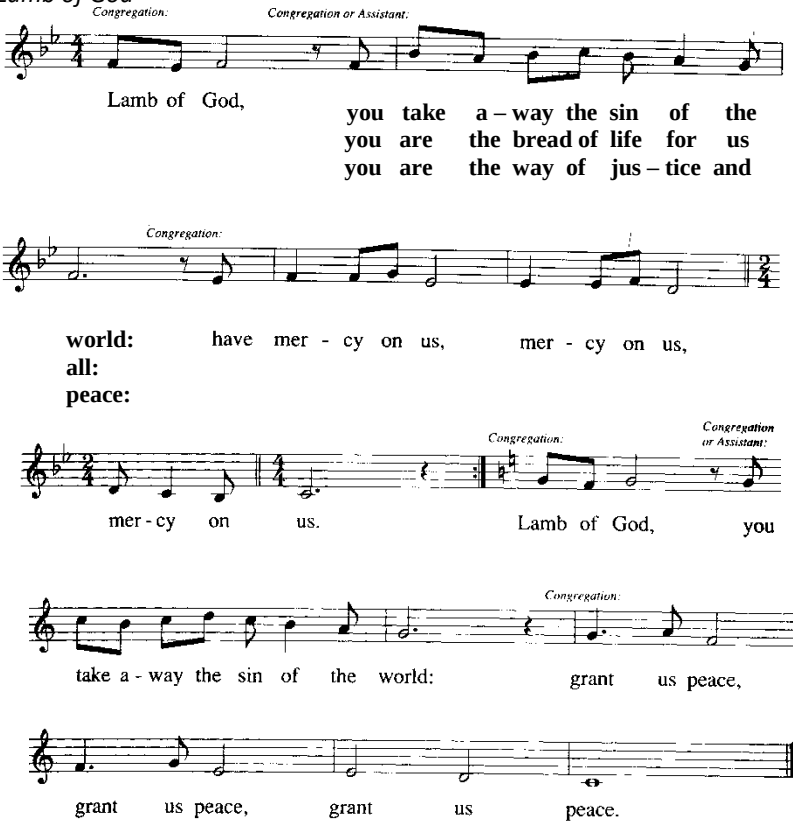
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Sharing of the Peace

(Please greet one another, saying: "The peace of the Lord be with you," responding "And also with you.")

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God*



DISTRIBUTION HYMN 727 On Eagles' Wings

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 763 When Peace Like a River

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!
C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Announcements – Week of November 15, 2026

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant), Juliet Behnfeldt (Reader), Thomas Cresap (Acolyte), Joe Scheblein and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Judy Grube and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set up and clean up).

Today's service will be live-streamed at this link: https://youtu.be/BJkSmxa-Vyg If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube! The services are also posted to the church's website.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study on 1 Corinthians. For our final class this week we will study 1 Corinthians 16:1-24. In the closing chapter of his letter, Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up a collection for those in need. He also shares his travel plans which included others like Timothy, Apollos, Stephanas and Fortunatus, Achaicus, Aquila and Prisca. While some of these names may not be familiar to us, they are a reminder of how the Holy Spirit was working, not only through Paul, but also through ordinary believers (like us!) to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sunday Bible Study: Desert Spirituality. This Sunday at 8:15am we'll continue our 10-part series on Desert Spirituality as we talk about replacing gluttony with moderation, sobriety, and self-control. We'll ponder the diagnostic question: in what areas of my life do I habitually want too much of a good thing? We'll learn about the life of Brother Benjamin and his practice of fasting. And we'll be reminded that God's abounding grace is opposed to earning salvation, but not to effort.

Join us for Children's Church at St. Peter! Children ages 2 through 5th grade (and any parents who desire) are invited to participate in our Children's Church service! During the regular service you will be invited forward for a blessing and sending to the fellowship hall. **Today we will focus on the theme of how God answers prayers using the story of God's the birth of Isaac as we praise, pray and learn from God's Word**. You will return to your families in the regular service for the celebration of Holy Communion. Don't miss it!

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (11/15)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship w/Baptism; 11a Gering Gift Plan Presentation
TUESDAY (11/17)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (11/18)	4:45p Confirmation Class; 7:30 Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (11/19)	9:40/11:40 Nursery School chapels
SATURDAY (11/21)	10:00a Women's Breakfast
SUNDAY (11/22)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship w/Baptism; 11a Baptism Reception

St. Peter Women's Breakfast Saturday, Nov 21. Pease join us for a breakfast and Bible Study fellowship time Saturday, November 17th at 10am in the big room downstairs. You can sign up to bring a dish to share, such as fruit, pastry, or your breakfast specialty. Bring yourself, bring a friend, see you there!

Would you consider offering a helping hand? Our congregation has the chance to offer support to the Schreil family as they face their daughter Abby's cancer diagnosis. Abby is a Hunterdon Central student and member of St. Paul in Flemington and the IMPACT youth group. As their family faces this challenge, we can help by donating gift cards, meals, and even monetarily through the Meal Train website at https://mealtrain.com/kvdk42 Thanks for your help and care for them!

Gering Gift Plan Presentation. TODAY after the worship service, members of the Planning Council will be presenting a plan to the congregation for how the Gering Bequest money will be used. This is the culmination of months of prayerful discussion and gathering input from the congregation. All are encouraged to stay for this important meeting!

Service and Other

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is $25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry. Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Faithfulness Report: Nov 8: Attendance: 73 / 3 online Gen Fund (plate and electronic): $6955
Debt relief:$25 Week*ly giving needed for budget: $6890*

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **November**'s collection is **Personal Products** – bar soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, liquid hand soap, dish detergent, sanitary products, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org
NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org
LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

Lessons in Biblical Stewardship

A focus on stewardship in our worship through this month of November gives us an opportunity to grow spiritually — and spiritual growth starts with the Word of God. As we hear Scripture readings that instruct us on how to faithfully support the work of God's Church in service to the Gospel of Christ, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to greater attentiveness, repentance, and - most importantly – the greater freedom and joy that comes from being a faithful steward of His gifts.

This week's Stewardship Principle – God's Word calls me to give of my firstfruits. (Prov. 3:9-10)

Q: What Priority Should My Tithes and Offerings Have?

Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine."

Q: How Often Should I Make my Tithes and Offerings?

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of every week, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for the offering."

This tells me that the Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him regularly, that is, whenever I have income, whether I am able to go to church that week or not.

Adapted, with gratitude, from Stewardship Under the Cross by Rev. HR Curtis