



a STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE
GOD-LIVED
life

A Life Lived Shrewdly



ST. PETER LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

A God-Lived Life – A Life Lived Shrewdly

January 9, 2022

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We gather for worship so that we can receive from God the good news of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus is at the center of our faith and our lives. Without him we have nothing. With him we have everything.

- **Restrooms** are located in the entryway and in the fellowship hall.
- **Two Nursery rooms** are available for parents with small children.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a Christian, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. This is the final of four months where God's Word will be challenging us, and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life. While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. Today God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose. May God grant us grace to use money for what really matters! This month, we focus on wise ways to use the resources God has given us for the greatest good.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder
Pianist: Judith Winsor

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GATHERING RITE

Music begins playing underneath the spoken word.

Minister: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Heavenly Father, every good and perfect gift comes from you, including the physical gifts you pour out into our lives. You intend these treasures to be used for your glory and in service to our neighbors. We repent for being selfish in the use of the treasures you have given. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**C: May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. CW 467:3**

M: Dear Savior Jesus, though you were rich, yet for our sakes you became poor, so that through your poverty we might become rich. All too often we have been rich toward ourselves instead of rich towards you out of thanks for our forgiveness won for us by your cross and empty tomb. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**C: May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. CW 467:4**

M: O Holy Spirit, you have worked faith in our hearts and you cause us to produce good fruit. We are sorry that our financial stewardship often fails to qualify as good fruit motivated by your love. Forgive us and live within us.

**C: May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. CW 467:6**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r. CW 467:1,2**

M: We pray:

Almighty God, you have brought us into the body of Christ by your grace and mercy. Help us to imitate the example of your Son and of our brothers and sisters who have gone before in humble and willing service to you full of faith, hope and love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. CW 467:5**

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward for a message directed at them.

READING

2 Kings 4:8-17

A godly woman uses her resources for what really matters. She wasn't giving to get, she was giving to support ministry.

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. ¹⁰ Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

¹¹ One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. ¹² He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. ¹³ Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people."¹⁴ "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked.

Gehazi said, "She has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms."

“No, my lord!” she objected. “Please, man of God, don’t mislead your servant!”

¹⁷ But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World to Me
Christian Worship 717

SERMON

Luke 16:1-15

“Now What Shall I Do?”

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

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.”

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight. (NIV)

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

The members of St. Peter Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests at St. Peter are welcome to participate in the offering but need not feel obligated to do so. Offering plates are set up at the exits of the sanctuary and in the entryway. If you wish to leave an offering, you can do so as you leave worship this morning.

Another option is to text an offering to (833) 948-2171. Text in the dollar amount. If you haven't signed up, you will receive a text asking you to do so. After signing up, you will not have to do that again. Simply text the dollar amount to the phone number listed.

*A third option is to give an offering through the Donate tab on our church website: **stpetermodesto.org**.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

M: Almighty Father, you are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing. You give us time, energy, talents, and treasures. Because of you we can say with the psalmist, "the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." Your Word teaches us of your great love for us and how to love our neighbor. Give us wisdom in using your gifts in God-pleasing ways. Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Lord Jesus Christ, you tell us that "what people value highly is detestable in God's sight." Help us to recognize our true treasure in you, our Savior and our God. Protect us from the devil who would have us marvel at insignificant things as a treasure, while neglecting the great gifts you give us in your Word and Sacraments. Give us wisdom in cherishing you and your greater gifts in God-pleasing ways. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Holy Spirit, you have set us apart and made our bodies your temple. You live in us. Your Word teaches us who we really are by the grace of God and through the innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us wisdom to see that godliness with contentment is great gain and grow in us the fruit that is pleasing to you Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Accept our prayers for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Help us to not be arrogant nor put our hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but help us put our hope in you, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment, for Jesus, our Savior's sake. Amen.

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

St. Peter Lutheran Church practices "member communion." We invite confirmed members to come forward to partake of the Sacrament. Thank you for your consideration.

This dialog (also known as the "preface") leads into the heart of the Sacrament portion of the service. In its exalted sentences we have the oldest and least changed part of the liturgy. There is evidence of its use in the 100's AD.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During the distribution you are invited to join in singing the indicated hymns or to use the time for private prayer and meditation. Appropriate prayers are found on page 11 in the front of the hymnal. A personal preparation for the Lord's Supper is found on page 156.

At the direction of the ushers, as an individual or family group, please proceed to the center aisle. Come to the front and either kneel in the center or stand before the worship leader and he will say to you, "The body of Christ, given for you." Then receive the wine from the assistant who will say to you, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Proceed toward the side of the sanctuary to dispose of the cup in the basket. You may then take your seat. A dismissal will be spoken to the group after the last person has communed.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Christian Worship 663

There will be a brief interlude between stanzas 4 and 5

After all have communed, there will be a time for meditation.

BIBLE STUDY

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

INTRODUCTION

The apostle Paul says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6). The writer of Proverbs 30:8,9 prays, “Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” How is this a great example of “godliness with contentment” and how does it serve as a test to see if we have godliness with contentment?

INTO THE TEXT

1. Verse 10 is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Many say, “Money is the root of all kinds of evil” instead of “the love of money.” Prove that money is not evil.
2. In verse 11, Paul tells Timothy to flee from “all this” (i.e., the love of money) and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. How does each help a person flee from “all this” and acquire contentment?
3. In verses 13ff, Paul alludes to Jesus’ second coming. In what ways is this motivation to “flee from all this”?
4. In verses 17-19, Paul lists two dangers when God blesses someone with wealth and then describes the best way to use your wealth. Identify the two dangers and how one should use their wealth?

APPLYING IT

1. For what reasons can a person who loves money not be content?
2. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) Explain the truth of Jesus’ words when it comes to our spending priorities like gifts to the Lord, paying taxes, providing for family, and the poor, etc.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Notes and News for January 9, 2022

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Lies about God have crept into spiritual thought in postmodern times. These deceptions are prominent not only in non-Christian minds but in the professing church as well.

On the surface, each of these lies may appear at least partially true or even harmless. But each harbors a distinct danger: It isn't biblical, so it puts our faith at risk. Join us at 9:00am on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall as we explore these lies in our new Bible study, "Lies about God."

Time in God's Word During the Week

Ladies' Bible Studies

The ladies meet every Wednesday in the fellowship hall at 3:00pm. We are continuing our study of the gospel of John. All ladies of St. Peter are welcome to join at any time!

Tuesday Bible Study

This study resumes this week on January 11, meets at 10:30am and 7:00pm, and is studying the Augsburg Confession. The 7:00pm lesson can be Zoomed, so please contact Pastor Schroeder about a link to join in on Zoom.

Thursday Christianity 101-Bible Information Class

A Bible basics class that meets in the fellowship hall on Thursdays at 4:00pm and 6:30pm.

Attendance This Past Week

10:00am worship service on January 2

- 47 in attendance
- 10 signed in online
- 11 views on Livestream



ST. PETER LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10:00am

Livestream at 10:00am

MISSION STATEMENT

As people saved by God's undeserved love, we want to share the Word of forgiveness and tell of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' love, we seek to strengthen and serve each other and our neighbors daily, acting through faith in our Lord Jesus, as guided by the Holy Bible.

Pastor Daniel Schroeder
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www.stpetermodesto.org

News and Upcoming Events

This Week in Our Prayers

- for Robyn Ramirez, who is experiencing many health issues due to Covid-19
- for Rose Stepanovich (wife of David Stepanovich), who has health conditions
- for Esther Gonzalez, who is recovering from cancer surgery
- for Marlene Miller, who is recovering from surgery on her hand
- for ongoing health concerns: Gloria Johnson, Briana Price, Barbara Price, Felisha Gonzalez, Esther Hassan, Inez Olssen
- for protection for those serving to protect our nation
- for peace in our nation, safety of lives, and an end to the current pandemic

A God-Lived Life – A Life Lived Shrewdly

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose.

Our challenge card this month will focus on *living shrewdly* with the blessings and treasures that God has given us. But what did Jesus mean when he encouraged us to be *shrewd*?

Who is someone you know that is a positive example of shrewdness? In what ways are you already shrewd? In what ways are you not shrewd? How can you honor God by managing with intention the gifts he has given you?

The Challenge Cards, included in the bulletin, can be put in the offering plate or a picture could be taken and emailed to the church office at modestowels@gmail.com

May God bless us as we live a God-lived life—a life lived shrewdly!



Pre-Call and Call Meetings

District President Bucholz will be leading our congregation in a pre-call meeting on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM. During the pre-call meeting, President Bucholz will lead us through a Bible Study on the divine call and discuss the congregation's ministry needs and opportunities. A Pre-Call Meeting Survey has been provided for members to fill out prior to the pre-call meeting. Hard copies of this survey can be found on the table in the church entryway by the bulletins. An online version of the survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/j6ivvrV6yRU1ucDU6> and completed at any time prior to the meeting. Hard copies should be brought to the pre-call meeting. If you cannot make the pre-call meeting you can still give your input by using the online survey or by giving your hard copy survey to Council President Jason Toepel and he will submit them to President Bucholz.

President Bucholz will then return on Thursday, January 20, 2022 to lead our congregation in an initial call meeting at 7:00 PM. During the call meeting, President Bucholz will provide us with a list of potential candidates and lead us through the process of extending a call to the individual that is determined by the voters during the meeting. All congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend these important meetings as we begin the process of finding a new pastor.

Voter's Meeting

Our congregation will hold its regularly scheduled quarterly voter's meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2022. The meeting will begin shortly after service. All congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Flower Chart

A new flower chart for 2022 is available for sign-ups in the narthex. If you wish to sign up to have flowers placed on the altar, please include your name and dedication. Envelopes and a payment box are on the shelf. Cost is \$17.50 per arrangement. If you have questions or requests, please contact Carol Coutrakis.

Celebration and Farewell

Our congregation has been planning a service to celebrate Pastor Schroeder's 25+ years of service in the ministry. With the recent announcement that Pastor Schroeder has accepted a call to Palm Coast, FL, it has been decided to also use this planned event as a farewell for Pastor Schroeder and his family. A special celebration service will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 4:00 PM. Pastor Schroeder's brother, Pastor Mark Schroeder, will be preaching. A reception will immediately follow the service. All congregation members are invited to this service and reception to celebrate Pastor Schroeder's years of service and to bid him and his family farewell. If you would like to help with the preparations or contribute to them, please speak with Rebecca or Jason Toepel.

Refreshment Host Sign-Up Sheet

If you would like to volunteer to host refreshments, please sign up in the fellowship hall.

A new sign-up sheet for 2022 is available.

If you would prefer, you may donate to a “snack fund” for the purchase of food and juice on days with no volunteers.

We want to encourage our members and visitors to remain after the service to get to know each other and offer Christian love and friendship. Providing a quick bite to eat is a great way to do this.

Our Ushers			Communion Assistant
Date			
January 9	Kevin Hejnal, Robert Sarwanoke		Servando Garcia
January 16	Jason Toepel, Jack Faria		Kim Winsor
January 23	Rob Mallory, Keith Werth		Dennis Henderson
Our Refreshment Hosts			
Date			
January 9	Fern Conrad		
January 16	<i>Open</i>		
January 23	<i>Open</i>		