



The Shepherd's Staff

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LCMS Stewardship

A Better Way
Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

**FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE
AND OFFICIAL ACTS**

	5 pm	9 am	Total
Jan 31-Feb 2	34	90	124
February 7-8	35	73	108
February 14-15	32	95	127
February 21-22	43	79	122
Communion			300

Transfers/Releases:

None

Official Acts:

Burials: 2/26-Diane Everhard

Baptism: 2/1-Ralph Doyle

News-worthy Notes



Beacon of Hope Meal will be on Thursday, April 2 at 5 pm. We will be cooking the meal here in the kitchen starting at 1:30 pm. If you would like to help, we would love to have you.

The Endowment Committee has a total of \$25,000 to award this year to any individual or groups with special needs or projects (should not be for ordinary operating expenses for the church). Application forms can be picked up at the church office and **must be submitted by April 20, 2026** to be considered.

JOY Group

Please join us on April 21st for a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass and maybe a friend to share in fellowship.



LWML NOTES

LWML Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 pm.



Mary's Circle Thursday, April 2nd 10:00am
Dorca's Circle Thursday, April 9th 3:00pm
Hannah's Circle Tuesday, April 14th 6:45pm

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast will be served by the CIA kids between services on Easter Morning. Please join us.

**2026 Annual Little Lambs Preschool Spring Fundraiser
Friday, April 17th at 5:30pm**

Please join us for a fun filled **Pizza Party** with Pastor Nick and his crew's homemade pizzas. A deluxe dessert auction will be held and we will be playing **Music Bingo** for prizes.

Free Will donations will be accepted.

Hope to see you there!

All proceeds will go to the Preschool for supplies and tuition assistance for those that qualify.

The preschool is asking for deluxe desserts to be donated for the auction and prizes to be donated for music bingo.

See Joan Arndt with any questions.

Alleluia



L "Alleluia! Christ is risen."

C "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



We still need **Lilies for our Easter Services.** If you Would like to provide one, please bring it in by April 2nd.

LCMS Health Ministry

"Along the Way: A Guide to Prayer Walking" is a new resource now available at resources.lcms.org/reading-study/along-the-way-a-guide-to-prayer-walking/. Spring is the perfect time to start or return to the habit of walking outdoors.



April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Times and dates are subject to change			1 12 pm-LL Pre-school 5:15pm-CC Classes 6pm-Bd. Of Ed 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	2 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 10am-Mary's Circle 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:00 pm-Beacon of Hope 7:00 pm-Maundy Thursday/HC	3 12:30 pm-Good Friday Worship 6:00 pm-Good Friday Worship LL Easter Break Office Closed Good Friday	4 5:00 pm-Easter Vigil Service/HC
5 7:00 am Sunrise service Between services C.I.A. Sponsored Breakfast 9:00 am-Easter Festival worship with HC *No SS or Adult Bible Study*	6 LL Easter Break	7 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm-LWML Board	8 12 pm-LL Pre-school 5 pm-Christian Outreach 5:15pm-CC Classes 6pm-Swaddling Clothes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	9 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 3:00pm-Dorcas Circle	10 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	11 5 pm—Divine Worship with HC
12 9 am-Divine worship with HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	13 12 pm-LL Preschool	14 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 6:30 pm-Kingsmen 6:45 pm-Hannah Circle	15 12 pm-LL Pre-school 5:15pm-CC Classes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	16 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	17 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 9am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae LL Preschool Fundraiser Pizza night 5:30pm	18 5 pm—Divine Worship with HC
19 9 am-Divine worship with HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	20 12 pm-LL Preschool	21 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 10:30am-Memorial Mtg 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30-Trustees; 7:00-Council	22 12 pm-LL Pre-school 5pm-Swaddling Clothes 5:15pm-CC Classes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	23 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	24 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	25 5 pm—Divine Worship with
26 9 am-Divine worship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study 11:30am-Voter's Meeting CIA Meeting	27 12 pm-LL Preschool	28 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm—Elders	29 12 pm-LL Pre-school 5:15pm-CC Classes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	30 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool		

Good Shepherd
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We're on the web
www.goodshepfortdodge.org
Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd 7:00pm w/HC

Good Friday

April 3rd 12:30pm and 6:00pm

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 4th 5:00pm w/HC

Easter Sunrise

Sunday, April 5th 7:00am

Easter Festival

Sunday, April 5th 9:00am w/HC