

AMAZING GRACE

a weekly newsletter of

Grace Lutheran Church & School

1200 Charles Street • La Plata, MD 20646 • 301-932-0963 • www.growingwithgrace.org

Rev. Ed Huber, Pastor

Jeff Burkee, Principal

Amanda Bell, DCE

WORSHIP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Sunday 8:30 am

Liturgical with Holy Communion
(sanctuary)

Education & Fellowship Hour: 9:45—10:45 am

Sunday 11:00 am

Contemporary Praise with Holy Communion
(family life center)

Nursery Open: 8:15 am—12:15 pm

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer with Communion

Call Committee Update

November 17th, 2019

In early November, the Southeast District (SED) President provided GLCS with a list of pastors for consideration as our next senior pastor. Our new Circuit Visitor (Pastor Ogne from Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Bryans Road) called the pastors on the list and asked if they were in a position to consider a call from GLCS. (Note: the pastors on the list did not know their names had been provided to GLCS until Pastor Ogne talked with them. Also, a pastor indicating he can consider a call does not mean he would accept a call if one were extended).

While a few of the pastors said they were not in a position to consider a call, there were several pastors open to considering a call. The SED President, Pastor Ogne and the call committee believe we are in a position to move forward with the list provided. Over the next several weeks, the call committee will be reviewing backgrounds of the pastors open to considering a call. As was done with the first

(Continued on page 9)



This morning, during the 8:30am service, we will celebrate the baptism of Nathan Robert Mace, Jr., son of Nathan Mace and Kelly Hallman.



With our Sunday morning worship schedule, there is now dedicated “education time” and all adults are invited to join the Sunday School class. We meet in the school library ~9:45 and spend about 40-45 minutes reviewing the Bible readings for the day and other related biblical topics. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Springer at curtaspringer@comcast.net or 301-848-2642.

Statement on Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to 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, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Faith in Christ and His word is necessary for a blessed reception including Baptism in the name of the Trinity and faith in [1] Christ as Savior, [2] Jesus' clear words that the Sacrament is His body and blood, [3] the Lord's promise that in the Sacrament his or her sins are forgiven, and [4] receipt of the promised forgiveness reaffirmed and strengthened in his or her union with Christ and other Christians. The unbaptized and uninstructed person who does not yet know or believe in Christ and His promises is unprepared and should not commune. The unrepentant person who does not seek Christ's forgiveness for sins— either general or particular— or refuses to forgive someone is unprepared and should not commune. The doubting person who denies or is unconvinced of what Jesus says of His bodily presence in the sacrament or its promised forgiveness is unprepared and should not commune.

Prayer Before Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for you . . . prayers@growingwithgrace.org

General: Glen Irwin, Don Shisler, Les Wilson, Faith Riggins, Pat Murray, Jane Gibbs, Jan Davis, Sherie Zimmer, Alice Morrill, Addie, Matt, Pete Gehris, Mattie Kincaid, Robert, Carl Fletcher, Rev. Art Scherer, Dean Elliott, Linda Otto, Chris Otto, Bob Kidwell, Miranda & Christian Sprague, Steve Lindsey, Gisela Jaschik

Those Battling Cancer: Bruce Rowe, Dave Gehris, Gale Elrod, Dorothy Maddox, Gloria Spicer, Don Shisler, Rev. David Pearcy, Denise Clark Hall, Chuck Wilson, Jean Nelson, Laura Decker, Kevin Bobish, James Dobbs, Jon Gehris, Mary Nelson, Adam Lumpkins, Merry Dawson, Carrie Wyman, Paul Proctor, Tim Motz, Muriel, Dana, Ken Ritch, Peter Tretner, Christina Allen, Rob, Carol Whitsell, Alice Levine, Lois Hookham, Jesse Stump, Chris Moorhouse, Nichole Garner, Megan Jenkins, Carol Ann Sowers

Those in Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins: Shirley Biondi, Del Riege, Bob Springer, Dan Waltz

Our Military/Civilians Overseas: Jeffrey and Jackie (Mozingo) Downie, Troy Dupont, Marshall Gibbs, Rebecca Mozingo

Sunday School & Bible Studies

CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Opening—9:45am, Sanctuary

We meet as a group in the sanctuary and then move to our respective rooms at 10am.

Preschool - Rm #120

Ann Stine & Dawn Cartwright

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades - Rm #215

Linda Samara

3rd & 4th Grades - Rm #212

Dan Stine

5th & 6th Grades - Rm #210

Frank Cartwright

7th Grade Confirmation - Rm #310 (modular)

Rev. Ed Huber, Amanda Bell, DCE

8th Grade Confirmation - Rm #116

Rev. Ed Huber, Amanda Bell, DCE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fellowship and Coffee Hour

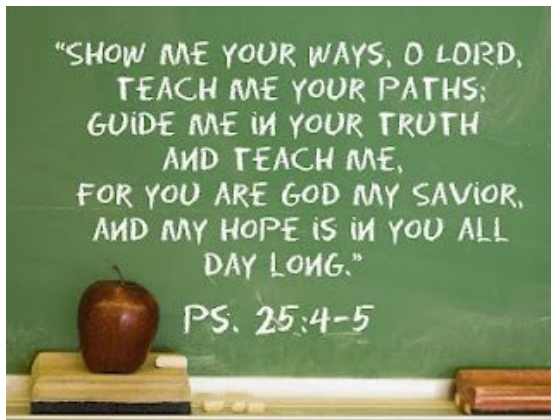
Rm #112 (café)

Today's Bible Readings: Digging deeper into the Scripture readings for the day.

Rm #208 (library)

The Daniel Plan: Biblical based approach to a healthy lifestyle.

Rm #203



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

Men's Fellowship Group and Bible Study

6:30 pm, Rm #112 (café)

Dan Stine, 301-645-8956

Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

A Study of Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

7pm, home of Bill & Cheryl Swartzwelder

301-934-4713

MONDAY

Women's Bible Study

Dinner 6pm, Study 6:30 pm

Rm #112 (café)

Susan Gastler, 301-751-4867

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Study

9am, Rm #116

Judy Knott, 301-743-3156

WEDNESDAY

Daniel Plan

7pm, Rm #112 (café)

Cathy Burkee, countrygrandmab@gmail.com

Jean Nelson, jcnelson1066@gmail.com

THURSDAY

Crossways

6:30pm, Rm #112 (café)

Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net

YOUTH NEWS

Christmas Breakfast

Volunteers needed for
Santa's Workshop

Saturday, December 7

Any Questions contact
DCE Amanda Bell

abell@growingwithgrace.org



Butter Braid Pick up Thursday, Nov. 21, 2pm



Children's Bags are now
available in the back of each ser-
vice

This is a trial to see
how they work—let
DCE Amanda Bell
know if you have
any suggestions.



"Let the little children come to me..."

Community Christmas Wrapping

Sunday, December 8th 6pm-8pm



Join us for a time of fellowship and
service as we wrap presents for
Community Christmas.

Dinner Volunteer needed!

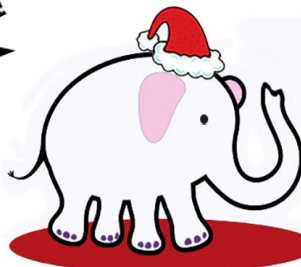
Any Questions contact DCE Amanda
Bell



See DCE Amanda Bell
for more info.

Sunday, December 22nd - 6pm-8pm

Come join us for cookies, hot chocolate,
a Christmas movie, and a white elephant
gift exchange (\$5 - \$15 limit).



White
Elephant
Gift
Exchange

Join
Cub Scouts!



Calling all boys and girls grade K thru 5....are you interested in ad-
venture, community involvement, camping, awards?

Cub Scout Pack #1799 is a family-oriented Cub Scout Pack char-
tered by Grace Lutheran Church. We are looking for new members
and would enjoy having you become part of our Pack! We meet on
Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in room #203.

Please contact Jane Cunningham for more information, jane Cunningham@verizon.net.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
NOV 30



**WALK, RUN, OR WADDLE
TO A SMALL BUSINESS**

10:00am-6:00pm

The town of La Plata will be full of hustle and bustle on November 30th. Our local small businesses are offering specials, entertainment, and more! Be sure to swing by!

#shoplaplata



Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30 – 10am to 3pm

Please stop by Martin's Service Station in La Plata on Saturday, November 30, 10am—3pm and enjoy musical selections by the Grace Lutheran Choir, Praise Band, and Grace Lutheran School students.



Advent Meals and Worship Schedule

Wednesdays, December
4, 11 and 18

5:30 pm meal in the
family life center

6:30 pm service in the
sanctuary



Sunday, December 1 – 4pm

A night of music, fellowship and celebration,
featuring:

Music by the Southern Maryland
Chamber Players

A special solo by Alicia Cordell
“Mary Did You Know”

Video presentation of “The Things
Women Deal With Over the Holiday Season”
(a comedy)

Table Hostesses Needed!!

Reserve your spot OR sign up to be a hostess.

Contact Andi Proctor at 301-932 0963 x103 or
aproctor@growingwithgrace.org



Share your thankfulness on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, **Giving Tuesday**, Dec. 3. You have the opportunity to share your blessings by contributing to the 2019-21 LWML Mission Grants.

Two out of every three people do not know Jesus as their Savior. Your donation can help reach them and will be matched by two committed donors on Giving Tuesday. Donate online at lwml.org/givingtuesday or through LWML Facebook.

(If you are unable to donate online, you may send your contributions to the LWML office at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Note Giving Tuesday with your contribution.)



Christmas Breakfast Tickets Now on Sale!! - See page 7

Volunteers Needed—See page 8



Stay Informed

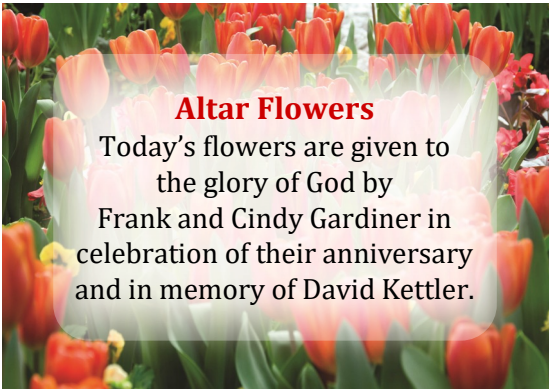
The best way to stay up-to-date with all the news and events at Grace is through our email lists. We currently have 2 lists:



Prayer Warriors: Used solely for prayer request

News & Announcements: Everything else (including weather closings).

If you'd like to add your email to our lists, please contact Andi in the church office at 301-932-0963 or aproctor@growingwithgrace.org.



Altar Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Frank and Cindy Gardiner in celebration of their anniversary and in memory of David Kettler.

Stephen Ministry Verse

For nothing
is impossible with

God

Luke 1:37



Back by Popular Demand— GIFT CARDS!!

Find holiday gifts for everyone while raising money for our youth.

Whether you buy gift cards as presents or use them to buy gifts, your order immediately raises money for our youth.

Purchase gift cards for your weekly groceries, gassing up your vehicle, or for a special night out.

Choose from hundreds of stores - Please check out the order forms for Scrip Gift Cards at the table in the Narthex.

Return your order for to DCE Amanda Bell and *your cards will be here with in a week.*

On Sale ALL Holiday Season!!

Any Questions talk to DCE Amanda Bell.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Short-Term Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a short-term counter, for January—March.

Counters record the Sunday offering, work in teams of two and serve approximately once every 5-6 weeks.

If you are interested, please contact Andi at aproctor@growingwithgrace.org or 301-932-0963.

Christmas Breakfast 2019 – December 7th

The Christmas Breakfast is a Grace Lutheran Church and School tradition for children of all ages! We serve a delicious, hot, buffet-style breakfast that includes a made-to-order omelet station, build-your-own pancake station, scrambled eggs, cheese eggs, fresh fruit, bagels & pastries, southern biscuits & gravy, bacon and sausage and more!

Breakfast service reservations are requested, so please indicate below your 1st and 2nd choice for dining time. If you don't mark a time, one will be assigned to you.

Children's ticket includes buffet-style breakfast, gift-giving crafts, a special birthday celebration for Jesus, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Adults will enjoy the delicious buffet and great entertainment while sharing the wonderful Christmas experience with their children.

NEW this year – Santa Shop! \$5.00 gifts for Mom, Dad, and other family members. (This will be a separate charge at the time you shop.)

Use this form to order your tickets in advance. Tickets must be purchased in advance.
No tickets will be sold at the door! Your order must be received by **TUESDAY, NOV. 26.**

Breakfast confirmation will be sent home prior to the event. All tickets will be picked up at the door on the day of the event.

Adult Ticket- \$10.00 Children (ages 2 and up) - \$15.00 Children under 2 - Free



Ticket Purchase

___ # of adult tickets @ \$10/each
 ___ # of children tickets @ \$15/ each
 ___ # of children tickets under 2/free

Breakfast Reservation Preference (check two)

___ 8:00 – 8:30 ___ 8:30 – 9:00
 ___ 9:00 – 9:30 ___ 9:30 – 10:00

Payment must accompany this order form. **Please make checks payable to GLS.**

Please indicate below the names and grades of children attending:

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Parent/ Guardian Name: _____

Please provide the following information for breakfast confirmation notification

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Office use only: Cash Check # _____

GLS Christmas Breakfast Adult Volunteer Form

The Christmas Breakfast is one of our biggest annual events that we have at GLS! The breakfast helps us to welcome in the holiday season, share quality time with our families and have fellowship with our friends.

We will need many volunteers in order to have a successful breakfast so please consider signing up to volunteer.

Friday, December 6, 2019

Decorate/ Set-Up I can be available to help set-up 3:30 - 5:30

Saturday, December 7, 2019 (CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION)

I would like to help as a: Kitchen/ Wait Staff Volunteer 7:00am - 12:00pm

I would like to help as a: Crafts Volunteer 7:30am - 12:00pm

I would like to help as a: Santa Shop Volunteer 8:00am - 11:00am

Please fill out the form and return it to school by **November 22, 2019**. Someone from the school will contact you regarding your volunteer times and stations.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Adult volunteers must purchase a ticket for breakfast if they are planning to eat breakfast.

I plan on eating breakfast *(please include \$10 with this form).*

Office use only: Cash Check # _____



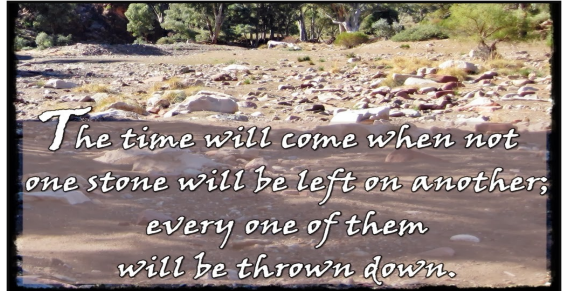
Immediate Openings in Extended Care

Please share if you know anyone who would be a good fit!!

Seeking kind and dependable Extended Care Teacher and Aide for preschool aged children. Must love working with children!

Responsibilities include creating and implementing developmentally appropriate lesson plans while maintaining a happy, healthy and safe environment for our children. Looking for afternoon help and possibly some mornings, Monday through Friday.

Must obtain medical clearance and successfully pass criminal background check. If interested please contact Lindsey Shafer at lshaffer@growingwithgrace.org.



Luke 21:6 – “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” Everything in this world is headed for the graveyard, but some things are also destined to rise from the grave. On that Day of Resurrection, as we look back on our earthly life, what will we see? What will have really mattered? This is a good question to ask ourselves in this season of the Church Year that focuses on the Last Things.

(Continued from page 1)

Organ Fund Update



Since the total in the Organ Fund exceeds the goal amount for the Rodgers Inspire 233 organ (\$43,900) by quite a significant amount, we will continue to raise funds in the hopes of obtaining the Rodgers Inspire 343 organ for the amount of \$64,700, as presented by Marty back in September.

As per the existing contract we have six months to raise the difference and purchase the Rodgers Inspired 343 organ for only the additional cost (no additional shipping or installation charges) in place of the one now on contract. We have been approached by several members who hope to continue to raise money for the Inspire 343. Funds raised to date—\$52,800. Additional amount needed—\$11,900. These members would like to request that the congregation also consider donating to help raise the additional monies needed.

call, we anticipate having phone interviews with several pastors and then inviting those who appear to be particularly good fits for a visit to GLCS to allow an opportunity for them to learn more about GLCS, tour our facilities, and meet with certain church and school staff. The exact timeline for these activities is uncertain as the call process will likely slow down during the Advent and Christmas season.

The call committee will provide additional updates over the next couple of months as the call process continues.

The members of the call committee are: Paula Jones, Paul Lenker, Pat Lewis, Jo Moran, Erin Pomrenke, Rhonda Rich, Curt Springer, Dan Stine, Gretchen Toliver, and Gary Whitsell. They ask for your prayers and support as they seek to find the pastor we know that God intends for us to have. If you have any questions or would like additional information, email Curt Springer at curtaspringer@comcast.net or call 301-848-2642.



Christmas Decorating

DATE CHANGED!!

Please join us beginning at **3pm Friday, November 29** as we decorate our worship spaces for Christmas.

Please contact Becky Hoffman if you can help out 301-751-1167 or bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org



FACILITIES UPDATE

Thank You to our dedicated servants who keep our facility and grounds in working order.

- Grounds Crew: Bill Burroughs, Scott Gingerich, Jerry Miller, Bill Swartzwelder and John Funk
- Butterfly Garden: Paula Grant and Nigel Wyllie
- Lightbulb Replacement: Bill Burroughs
- Electrical and Lighting Upgrades: Billy Hoffman
- Kitchen Equipment Maintenance and Misc: Bill Hoffman

Thank you to Emily Ferren who has been researching, completing and submitting grant applications.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Replacement of windows and doors in preschool (grant funding)
- Solar panels – audit schedule to be arranged this fall
- Scout shed
- AC and heating repair and maintenance – ongoing
- Replacement of hooks & door closures in restrooms (FLC & prek)

NEWLY COMPLETED PROJECTS AND REPAIRS

- Mop sink room between church bathrooms received a new faucet, paint and flooring.
- Planters updated for fall
- 5 LED exit signs and LED lighting installed in mezzanine
- Shade sails stored
- Snow removal contract signed for 2019-2020
- Snow stakes installed
- CINTAS Inspections

Entry to the Building

With the relocation of the church offices, there are now two ways to enter the building during the school/business day.



1. If you are volunteering or will be working in the school you must sign in through the school office and receive a visitor badge.

2. If your visit concerns only the church and you will not be entering the school portion of the facility, you can enter via the doors at the café or the sanctuary.

Please use the doorbells indicated and someone will open the door for you.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to keep our children, employees and facility secure.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY (17)

2 pm	Ch. Hall Vets Ministry	off-site	Bill Eckman, 301-934-4874
6 pm	GRUVE Game Night	FLC	Amanda Bell, x 111
6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study	112	Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

MONDAY (18)

1 pm	Stephen Ministry Mentors	116	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
6 pm	BSA #1321	203	Cris Purnell, 301-502-1720
6 pm	Women's Dinner & Study	112	Susan Gastler, sgastler@growingwithgrace.org
6pm	Choir Practice	Sanct	Marty Staub, cmstaub@juno.com
6:10 pm	Yoga Basics	FLC	Annah Rinaldo, annahrinaldo@gmail.com
7 pm	Stephen Ministry Mentors	116	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
7 pm	LutherRingers	Sanct	Marty Staub, cmstaub@juno.com

TUESDAY (19)

9 am	Ladies Christcare	116	Judy Knott, 301-743-3156
6:30 pm	Men's Aftercare	209	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
6:30 pm	Women's Aftercare	112	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
7 pm	Venture Scouts	116	Ivan Cunningham, ivancunningham@gmail.com
7:30 pm	N.A.	FLC	<i>contact main office</i>

WEDNESDAY (20)

7 pm	Praise Team Practice	FLC	Jake Pomrenke, 240-346-3215
7 pm	Daniel Plan	112	Jean Nelson, jcnelson1066@gmail.com

THURSDAY (21)

12:45 pm	Adult Day Care Ministry	off-site	<i>contact main office</i>
6:30 pm	BSA 1321	Sanct	Cris Purnell, 301-502-1720
6:30 pm	Crossways	112	Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net
7 pm	A.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>

FRIDAY (22)

12 pm	GLC Book Club	112	Maggie Mahaffey, 301-643-3978
7:30 pm	N.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>

SATURDAY (23)

10 am	Patuxent Babywearing	116	Jo Moran, jokraft2001@gmail.com
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Nov. 30 ~ Small Business Saturday in La Plata at Martins

Dec. 1 ~ Advent by Candlelight

Dec. 7 ~ Christmas Breakfast



The Widows Offering – Luke 21: 1-4

King Frederick William III of Prussia

Everyone wants our money.

- The Bible also says a great deal about money.
- There are at least three life-lessons from the offering of the widow:
 - Recognize that we own nothing – we are stewards
 - Manage life, money, and time for the purposes of God.
 - As sinners we are bankrupt – faith in Christ ensures the treasure of heaven.

Jesus looks up and sees the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he sees a poor widow put in two small copper coins

- The temple treasury is called the chamber of secrets
- Luke conceptually links the actions of the poor widow with a preceding warning against the greed of the scribes

The insignificant sum of two lepta given by the widow is more than all others

- The widow parts with everything - the rich give out of excess
- Her “mite”—her willingness to offer God everything she had, was her “might”—the source of her strength and self-respect

What does the short story of the widow’s mite teach us?

- First, God sees what man overlooks.
- Second, God evaluates our gifts
- Third, God commends a heart that gives in faith.

David Livingstone and Mary Moffat

Jesus knows all about sacrifice and pain – there is no fooling him

- Total sacrifice empties our purse into the collection plate when there is nothing in the bank
- Was it realistic for the widow to do that?

The widow gave with a generous heart in recognition of the treasure of heaven

- Disavowing any form of personal ownership places the faithful steward alongside the poor widow – under the word and will of God
- Bottom Line - Psalm 24: *The earth and all that fills it are the Lord’s.*
- The call of stewardship is not just a call on the wallet or purse.
- The widow empties them - stewardship claims our whole life.