

Welcome!

Martha
welcomed
Jesus into
her home

LUKE 10:38



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

(570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

Our Mission: Zion proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community. We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2022 ~ 9:00 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHOSE STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

Amen.

LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.

Silence is kept for reflection.

MERCIFUL GOD,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS! GOD DOES NOT DEAL WITH US ACCORDING TO OUR SINS BUT DELIGHTS IN GRANTING PARDON AND MERCY. IN THE NAME OF ✚ JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. YOU ARE FREE TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES.

Amen.

* **The Gathering Hymn** *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"* No.546 Stanzas 1,2,3,4

* The Greeting

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

* The Kyrie (*ELW Hymn No. 154*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

* The Hymn of Praise "*Gloria*" (*ELW Pg. 176*)

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God!

*** The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Spoken) **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 15 Tune “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” No.294

LORD, WHO MAY DWELL IN YOUR TABERNACLE?

Lord, who may enter where you dwell, And there abide, your praise to tell?

THOSE WHO LEAD A BLAMELESS LIFE AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT, WHO SPEAK THE TRUTH FROM THEIR HEART AND DO NOT SLANDER OTHERS, WHO DO NO WRONG TO THEIR FRIENDS NOR SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT THEIR NEIGHBORS.

Lord, who is worthy in your sight To stand before you day and night?

THOSE WHO REJECT THE WICKED BUT HONOR THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD, WHO STAND BY WHAT THEY PROMISE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, WHO DO NOT GIVE MONEY IN HOPE OF GAIN AND CANNOT BE BRIBED AGAINST THE INNOCENT.

God's promise unto such is sure: They evermore shall stand secure.

The Second Lesson Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Gospel Acclamation (ELW Pg. 179)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!

*** The Holy Gospel St. Luke 10:38-42**

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 10TH CHAPTER:

(spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

(spoken) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

- * **The Hymn of the Day** **“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”** WOV No. 715
Open your ears, O faithful people, Open your ears and hear God’s Word
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.

(Refrain) God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear the message, They who have ears, now let them hear;
They who would learn the way of wisdom, Let them hear God’s Word. *(Refrain)*

Israel comes to greet the Savior, Judah is glad to see his day,
From east and west the peoples travel, God will show the way. *(Refrain)*

* **The Apostles’ Creed**

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

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

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

* **The Prayers of Intercession**

UNITED IN CHRIST AND GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE CREATION, AND ALL IN NEED.

A brief silence.

EVER-PRESENT GOD, IN CHRIST YOU FILL ALL THINGS. AS YOUR CHURCH GATHERS TO HEAR YOUR WORD, SHARE YOUR MEAL, AND RECEIVE YOUR BLESSING, TEACH US TO WELCOME STRANGERS AS WE HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BY YOU. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

THROUGH CHRIST YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE. TEACH HUMANKIND TO HONOR AND PROTECT ALL CREATION, INCLUDING LIVING THINGS THAT REMAIN HIDDEN FROM OUR EYES SUCH AS AIR, ATMOSPHERE, MOLECULES, AND MICROSCOPIC CREATURES. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

THROUGH CHRIST YOU RECONCILE ALL THINGS. MOTIVATE THOSE IN POWER TO END ENSLAVEMENT, DEHUMANIZATION, OR BRUTALITY OF ANY KIND AND TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

THROUGH CHRIST YOU BRING PEACE. ASSURE ALL WHO ARE WORRIED AND DISTRACTED BY MANY THINGS OF YOUR CONSTANT PRESENCE. SOOTHE THOSE SUFFERING IN MIND, BODY, OR SPIRIT. SUSTAIN ALL WHO ARE AFFLICTED AND THOSE WHO SERVE AS

CAREGIVERS ESPECIALLY CINDY, ROBERT, GEORGE, PAT, DEREK, ELIZABETH, MARY, CHRIS, NANCY, RALPH, JOSEPH, EVA, JOHN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

IN CHRIST YOU MAKE YOUR WORD FULLY KNOWN. INSPIRE THIS WORSHIPING COMMUNITY TO ABIDE FULLY IN YOUR WORD AS WE SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS. BLESS THE MINISTRY OF TEACHERS AND BIBLE STUDY LEADERS. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

IN CHRIST YOU BROUGHT FORTH THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD. WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SAINTS YOU HAVE GATHERED AT YOUR TABLE. GATHER US WITH THEM IN YOUR ETERNAL GLORY. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF EVERY TIME AND PLACE, IN JESUS' NAME AND FILLED WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, WE ENTRUST THESE SPOKEN PRAYERS AND THOSE IN OUR HEARTS INTO YOUR HOLY KEEPING.

Amen.

*** The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

~The Meal~

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our myEoffering option.

*** The Offertory Procession Tune: “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” WOV No. 759**

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.

We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.

What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

*** The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF ABUNDANCE: YOU HAVE SET BEFORE US A PLENTIFUL HARVEST. AS WE FEAST ON YOUR GOODNESS, STRENGTHEN US TO LABOR IN YOUR FIELD, AND EQUIP US TO BEAR FRUIT FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

Amen.

The Special Music - Beth Marcavage

*** The Great Thanksgiving**

*** The Preface and Sanctus** (ELW Pg. 180)

THE LORD BE WITH YOU
(Spoken) **And also with you.**
LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (ELW Pg. 181)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*** The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY, MIGHTY, AND MERCIFUL LORD, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.....POUR OUT UPON US THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD, AND UNITE THE WILLS OF ALL WHO SHARE THIS HEAVENLY FOOD, THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD; TO WHOM, WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE ALL HONOR AND GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer**

MAKE US BOLD, O MERCIFUL GOD, TO ADDRESS YOU AS OUR ABBA AS WE 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

*** The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY. COME TO THE BANQUET.

*** The Agnus Dei "Lamb of God" (ELW Pg. 182)**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**
**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**
**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

*** The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.
Amen.

* **The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY, LIFE-GIVING GOD, THROUGH THIS MEAL YOU HAVE BANDAGED OUR WOUNDS AND FED US WITH YOUR MERCY. NOW SEND US FORTH TO LIVE FOR OTHERS, BOTH FRIEND AND STRANGER, THAT ALL MAY COME TO KNOW YOUR LOVE. THIS WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

Amen.

~The Sending~

* **The Blessing**

THE GOD OF PEACE, FATHER, + SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, BLESS YOU, COMFORT YOU, AND SHOW YOU THE PATH OF LIFE THIS DAY AND ALWAYS.

(Spoken) Amen.

* **The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Thanks be to God.

* **The Sending Hymn**

“Go, Make Disciples”

ELW No.540

"Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.

Go, make disciples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a city on a hill, so all can see that you're serving me.

Go, make disciples."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a - ¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a}Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28 - ¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

July 24, 2022 readings are:

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 16-17, 2022

**If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across the hall from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors please sign our guest book. Thank you.*

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In honor the July birthdays of Noah, Mike, & Ollie & in loving memory of pap by Kathy & Mike Miller

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the 2nd birthday of Noah, the July birthdays of Mike, & Ollie & in loving memory of pap by

Kathy & Mike Miller

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of James A. Valentine & all family member birthdays by Mark & Charlene Valentine

Please remember the following in your prayers: Cindy Collura, Robert Dolbin, George Bozosi, Pat Brown, Derek Hill, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Mary Richards, Mrs. Chris Miller, Nancy Betz, Ralph Derr, Joseph Harvilla, Eva (Mitzi) Koomar, John Lattanzi, and all our members who are homebound.

August sponsors needed: Flowers - August 7, 14, 21, Bulletins - August 14

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Welcome!!

Parish office phone and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website is www.ziontamaqua.com

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion's 2022 Church Council officers: Chris Henritz, President, Michael Haspe, Vice-President, Tiffany Warden, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Judy Brennan, Sam Caley, Arlene Derr, Ernie Henritz, Glenn Fritzing, Brian Lawfer, Steve Ristila and Mary Ruth Taylor; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

This Week in Our Church

SUNDAY, July 17, 2022

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament/ Joyful Noise Offering

MONDAY

6:30 Council Meeting

TUESDAY

Social Prep

9:30 Work Session

WEDNESDAY

4:00 Ice Cream Social

6:00 NA Meeting

THURSDAY

9:30 Work Session

SATURDAY

5:30 Saturday Evening Worship/ Christmas in July

NEXT SUNDAY, July 24, 2022

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

Supporting Zion's Ministries

Contributions received for 7/10/22:

Received to meet \$4,049.75 weekly budget: \$6,288.38

Received from Thrift Store \$821.39

Received for Endowment: \$0.00

Received for Capital Campaign: \$1,720.00

Contributions YTD to meet operating budget expenses: \$132,731.12

Received from offering/gifts/memorials: \$74,450.10

Received from Thrift Store \$4,540.93

Received from Endowment: \$44,000.00

Received from Culinary: \$6,445.00

Received from Schlitzer Fund \$3,295.09

Budget operating expenses YTD: \$134,604.70

Budget status YTD: \$(1,873.58)

Thank you for your gifts.

*Your offerings allow us to share the word of God and the love of
Jesus with our congregation and our community.*

July's Joyful Noise offering (collected the third weekend of the month) is for Kisses for Kyle Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting families fighting childhood cancer in the Delaware Valley. The organization provides over 20 programs and services and emotional support for affected families.

Upcoming Events

July 20 – Ice Cream Social

July 23 – Christmas in July, 5:30 worship service

July 28 – Hoagie Sale

August 14 – Summer Celebration

August 18 – Peach Social

Hoagie sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by July 24th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, July 28th from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!



JULY ICE CREAM SOCIAL BENEFIT

Zion's Culinary Team is hosting an ice cream social July 20th from 4-7 pm to benefit the East End Fire Company, all proceeds will go to the fire company. Please help spread the word. Let your friends, neighbors and relative know about this special community event.

Summer Celebration, an evening of music, fellowship, and ice cream, will begin at 7 p.m., August 14th at Trinity UCC, 22 Lafayette Street, Tamaqua. The event features the Blue Mountain Community Church Praise Band. A free-will offering will be taken. The Summer Celebration is hosted by TAFFN and the Tamaqua Ministerial Association. All are welcome.

The recent Strawberry Social hosted by Zion's culinary crew was attended by approximately 175 people. Those attendees were able to taste quality food and enjoy a time of fellowship with friends and family. The next outreach event hosted by culinary is the Ice Cream Social to benefit the East End Fire Company on July 20. If you wish to help culinary with this project, call Mary Ruth at 668-4451. Monetary donations toward this event can be sent to Zion office, attention OUTREACH.

The Money Nerve

"Edgar Lee Masters, in *The New Spoon River*, entitled one of his poems "The Money Nerve." While this nerve is not described in any book on human anatomy, we all know what the poet means by the term. The money nerve is located in a very sensitive spot, near the pocketbook, and is easily affected by anything that has to do with our cash or possessions. For example, politicians can discuss all kinds of topics without arousing public interest, but when they talk about raising taxes, they've hit the money nerve. Dentists aren't our favorite persons when they drill on our teeth, but the hardest shock they give us is when they hand us the bill. They've hit the money nerve.

"But perhaps we are most sensitive about money when we are in church. We all know the church must have money in order to function. Buildings must be built and paid for. Public utilities furnish light and heat to churches only if their bills are remitted promptly. Congregations need Bibles, hymnals, educational materials, and other supplies in order to carry on their programs. Janitors, secretaries, and clergy must receive a living wage if they are to continue to serve. And if the church is to fulfill its task of taking the gospel to all nations, there must be money for missionaries and for struggling churches in other lands. All this is clear to every Christian. Yet no subject causes more trouble in the church than money." [*How to Talk to Christians About Money*, W.A. Poovey]

Why is that? We can talk about love, family values, social injustice, even about sin. Nobody flinches. Start talking about the church budget, and irritated controversy becomes a possibility. How come?

Could it be that shifting the subject to money and building a church budget moves us beyond general principles into a discussion of personal discipleship? Is it really talking about money in the church that causes people to feel uneasy? Or is the money nerve located close to something besides our pocketbooks?

Jesus says to each of us, "Follow me" (Mark 1:17). We said we wanted to follow, and we pat ourselves on the back for making such a good decision. Then Jesus asks how much money we will give. Suddenly, the personal discipleship question that was *general in nature* becomes a personal discipleship question that calls for a *specific sacrifice*. Yes, the money nerve is located close to the pocketbook, but it is also located close to the backbone of our discipleship commitment. Money asks for a "follower-ship" decision that we may or may not be ready to make.

How is it with you? Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with discussions of money in the church? What do you think that reaction means in the deep places of your soul?