

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the fourth message in our longer fall sermon series on Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth. For the next two weeks, we have jumped ahead to chapters 8 and 9 to cover what Paul says about the money he is collecting for the Mother Church in Jerusalem, which is suffering from poverty due to famine and persecution. Sometimes people ask me if there is anywhere in Scripture that talks about pledging and tithing. There are several places, but 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 convey those concepts very clearly and well.

1. Growing up, what did you learn about money and giving from your family of origin? Were they worried about money and there not being enough? Or was money plentiful? Was helping others through sharing something that was discussed and lived out, or were you taught by word and deed something different?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1–15, focusing on verses 1–6. What does Paul have to say about the churches in Macedonia (northern Greece)? Why do you think Paul contrasts them with the church in Corinth?
3. In verses 7–11, Paul challenges the Corinthians to give generously for at least three reasons: one is about excelling, one is about their Savior, and one is about fulfilling promises they have made. Which one do you think would have been most convincing to them? Which one is most convincing to you?
4. In verses 12–15, Paul talks about not putting all the weight of giving on them alone while releasing others, but rather about a fair balance and equality in the total effort. In other words, he suggests that they are all in this together—rich and poor, near and far—supporting the needy mother church in Jerusalem. How does tithing or proportional giving (2%, 4%, 10%) of disposable income or assets help us live out that vision?
5. I shared about Rich and Nancy Kinder’s plan to give away 95% of their fortune, and about an experience from Katharine Hepburn’s childhood that shaped her philosophy of giving. How do those examples, in addition to 2 Corinthians 8:1–15, inform, challenge, or inspire your philosophy regarding giving, pledging, and stewardship of time, talent, and treasure? If MDPC is your church home, when you receive your generosity packet in the mail this week—or pick one up at the church—please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to respond this fall for the coming year.

.....

Financial Update	as of Oct 19, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	9,727,690
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	4,475,602

Births and Deaths
Bob Symon passed away Oct 17.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Covenant Sunday

Many of you received your 2026 Covenant Package arriving in your mailbox. Be sure to **bring your completed pledge card with you next Sunday, Nov 2!** Your pledge isn’t a gift yet—it’s your projection of next year’s giving, which helps MDPC plan wisely for 2026 ministry expenses.

Congregational Meeting Today

Following each service

There will be a brief rolling Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing MDPC’s 2028 Class of Officers and the members of the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Young Adults Choctoberfest

Thu, Oct 30 | 6:30-9pm | MDPC

Join us for an evening of chocolatey treats, friendly competition, and community connection. Bring a homemade dessert creation to enter into the contest - or just come hungry and ready to vote! Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

Women’s Spiritual Retreat

Sat, Nov 15 | 9am-3:30pm

Guided by the Spirit and led by faithful teachers Beth Case and Teri Adair, we will explore Scrip-

Give Online
give.mdpc.org

To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

ture and reflect on how God’s mighty presence brings restoration, purpose, and peace. Learn more and register: delight.mdpc.org

Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed

We need your help in preschool and elementary Sunday School! Join us once a month to help young children grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org

Sing with Our Littles!

Do you play an instrument and sing a little? Do you enjoy children? If so, have we got a volunteer opportunity for you! We’re looking for volunteers (age 14 and up) to help lead singing during Preschool Worship on Sunday mornings. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org

Veteran’s Coffee & Connection

Mon, Nov 10 | 9:30-11am | Parlor

Come enjoy coffee and pastries, a devotional by Pastor Alf, and connecting with other veterans.

Young Adults Friendsgiving

Sat, Nov 15 | 6-9pm | MDPC

A night of comfort food, heartfelt conversations, and shared gratitude as we hear personal faith stories from a few young adults in their 20s & 30s. Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Walk-ins welcome!

Today! 10am-2:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Come well hydrated!

You’re Invited to
ALL-CHURCH LUNCH
Sun, Nov 2 • 11am-1pm
Fellowship Hall

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month!

Pricing and menu: ACL.mdpc.org

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

- Call to Worship Clay Brown
- *Songs of Praise Blessed Be Your Name
As the Deer / I Love You, Lord
- *Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People
- Worship Hymn Savior, Like a Shepherd

HEARING THE WORD

- Message Beautifully Broken Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NRSV

RESPONDING

- Offertory You Will Be Saved

SENDING

- *Doxology OLD 100TH
- *Benediction Alf Halvorson

.....

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

- *Call to Worship Michael Middleton
- *Songs of Praise Freedom in This House
Glorious Day
- *Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Sally Henien
- *Worship Song Cornerstone

HEARING THE WORD

- Message Beautifully Broken Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NRSV

RESPONDING

- Offertory You Will Be Saved

SENDING

- *Doxology OLD 100TH
- *Benediction Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Uvaldo Callejas, bass | JJ Blanco, keys
Chris Parrott, guitar | Michael Middleton and Sarah Fuselier, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out!
Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

- Prelude Prelude in C Minor Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
- Call to Worship Christyn Knoop
- Choral Introit Rise Up, O Men of God arr. Kenneth Jennings (1925-2015)
- *Hymn of Praise Take My Life Vs. 1, 2, 3, 6 | #391 | HENDON
- *Confession and Assurance of Pardon Christyn Knoop
- *Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism
- *Congregational Response Glory Be to the Father #579 | GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

- Anthem of Preparation Thou Art Holy Craig Courtney (b. 1946)
- Message Beautifully Broken Alf Halvorson
2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NRSV

RESPONDING

- *Hymn of Response Here I Am, Lord Vs. 1, 3 | #525 | Daniel Schutte
- Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer Christyn Knoop
- Offertory Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

SENDING

- *Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #592 | OLD 100TH
- *Benediction Alf Halvorson
- Postlude March Heroique Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Musicians: Men's Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, Organist/Pianist





This Thanksgiving, ESB and MDPC Fuente Food Pantries will feed over 1,000 families struggling with food insecurity - and you can help!

Shopping bags and lists available on campus starting Oct 19.

Learn more: meals.mdpc.org







THIRD GRADE BIBLE RETREAT

Sun, Nov 2 | 12:30-2pm

Kids will learn how to navigate the Bible, be introduced to the books of the Bible, and simply get comfortable and ready to explore the Word!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE Presentation
Sun, Nov 9 | Details at tgb.mdpc.org



It's MDPC Homeless Awareness Month and we are offering a simple but meaningful way to help those who are suffering from homelessness. Look for the baskets around campus filled with care bags containing tie-dye socks made by our Summer Celebration kids, along with self-care toiletries. We invite you to take bags to pass along to someone in need. A small act of kindness can go a long way!