

Contemplating Stewardship¹ for RCL

Just copy and paste into your bulletin!

Source: EaND Stewardship Team

Put "Contemplating Stewardship" in your Sunday bulletin every week! A brief reflection on stewardship following the Revised Common Lectionary readings will keep the stewardship conversation vibrant. Just cut and paste!

Contemplating Stewardship: Fulfilled Promise

April 1st, 2018 (Resurrection of the Lord, Year B)

"Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures." -Luke 24:27

The Bible is a collection of sacred texts that point to the relationship between God and creation. Weaved into this narrative is story of God's promise of salvation, made most known to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus we are called to trust that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise, looking to the scriptures to inspire us, guide us, and deepen our understanding of Christ. As you seek to grow in your understanding of stewardship, look to the Bible to be your guide, allowing God's Word to transform your hearts and challenge your conventional thinking.

Contemplating Stewardship: The Next Chapter

April 8th, 2018 (Second Sunday of Easter, Year B)

"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." -Acts 4:32

The early church sounds like it was radical group. The author of Acts tells us they were of one heart and soul, held everything in common, and no one claimed private ownership. At this point in history, this was the answer needed to move the church into the next stage of its life. How can we, as faithful followers of Christ, use God's many blessings and jointly move the church into its next chapter, one that fits to the needs of the twenty-first century? Stewardship is only one of many tools we can use to guide our way. What matters is our trusting in God's Grace to guide us and our giving in response to what God has first given us.

Contemplating Stewardship: God's Children Now

April 15th, 2018 (Third Sunday of Easter, Year B)

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be call children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are

¹Inspired by the "Stewardship Snippet" written by Rev. Rob Blezard, Assistant to the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Further resources available at <http://www.lss-elca.org/resources/stewardship/>

God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." -1 John 3:1-2

What a gift to be called a child of God! God loves us, by claiming us and naming us as God's beloved children. This love is boundless, and God pours this love into all of creation. The reason the world does not recognize God's love is because it does not yet know Jesus. Our calling is to fully live into our identity as God's children now. We trust that in God's time, our neighbor and ourselves will one day reach fulfillment in Christ. What a gift of love-- treating your neighbor as God's beloved child, before fully understanding what this looks like. Stewarding God's gifts means investing in a future yet to be revealed.

Contemplating Stewardship: How Can We Refuse?

April 22nd, 2018 (Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B)

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and see a brother or a sister in need and yet refuses help?" -1 John 3:17

God has blessed us in so many ways. As followers of Christ we profess to follow to the teachings of Jesus, who commands us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. How we use God's blessings to care for our brothers and sisters in need, reveals the presence of God's love in our lives. Through our acts of kindness, our acts of service, our acts of faithfulness, God's love is experienced in tangible ways. How can we refuse to help if we believe that God will use our actions to transform the lives of our neighbor?

Contemplating Stewardship: Title

April 29th, 2018 (Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." -John 15:5

Jesus uses the metaphor of a grape vine to describe how we are connected to him. Those who seek to abide in Christ, Christ promises to abide in them, and through this exchange they will bear much fruit. We must never forget that apart from Christ we can do nothing. Rather than seeing what we give as a thing we once possessed, we need to remind ourselves that everything we have is a gift from God. When we freely give of what we've already been given, more fruit will be produced. It is through this exchange that the joy of giving is experienced, and the truth of our dependence to Christ is fully realized.