

Contemplating Stewardship¹ for NL

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: Stewardship of self

June 3rd, 2018 (Proper 4: Second Sunday after Pentecost, "The Ten Commandments" wk2)

"Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." -Exodus 20:8

What so many of us often forget is that stewardship is an act of worship. When we come to church and offer our time and treasures to God, we are worshipping God. But, stewardship is not only about God's church. We are also called to be good stewards of our emotional and physical selves. Are we willing to honor a true sabbath day in our lives? When we hear the call for sabbath, I hope we can find a place for rest and peace as well as worship.

Contemplating Stewardship: It was never ours to begin with...

June 10th, 2018 (Proper 5: Third Sunday after Pentecost, "The Ten Commandments" wk3)

"You shall not steal." -Exodus 20:15

The opposite of stealing could be described as giving something away with no expectation of return. Christ is poured out for us as a gift, and probably one of the most difficult realizations we can have as God's children is that everything we possess is a gift from God. As people who are called to stewardship, it is easier to give from our own bounty when we realize that it was never ours to begin with. In faith, we can realize how true this is, and we can become those who no longer live for ourselves. Then, the world becomes a much different place: rather than looking for how we might benefit, we look for who we might benefit.

Contemplating Stewardship: You have already won the lottery!

June 17th, 2018 (Proper 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, "The Ten Commandments" wk4)

"You shall not covet..." -Exodus 20:17

There are people who desperately want to win the lottery. Yet, if they paused to consider how blessed and rich their lives are already, their desire to possess lottery winnings might diminish.

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/>

Our lives are so full of God's grace, it could be said that we have already won the lottery! Good stewardship starts in this same place: our thankfulness for all that God has done for us. When we realize how abundant our lives are, not only do we not covet, but we begin to joyfully share out of our bounty.

Contemplating Stewardship: Complete Joy

June 24th, 2018 (Proper 7: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, "1st John" wk1)

"...so that our joy may be complete." - 1 John 1:4

When was the last time you felt joy? It probably happens periodically, but the writer of 1st John talks about our joy being made complete, or joy that lasts forever. Jesus Christ provides this complete joy by giving us a never-ending source of love and grace. In our lives on earth, we find this joy by hearing again and again the words that lead to eternal life. This joy can be even sweeter when we are part of bringing the ministry of Christ to others. May God's complete joy move you to be a part of God's unfolding story of grace in this world.