

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: Stewardship of self

June 3rd, 2018 (Proper 5: Second Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

"Then Jesus said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath;'" -Mark 2:27

What so many of us often forget is that stewardship is an act of worship; an act of sabbath. 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: You have already won the lottery!

June 10th, 2018 (Proper 6: Third Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

"so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." -2 Corinthians 4:15

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. 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, we begin to joyfully share out of our bounty to the Glory of God!

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

June 17th, 2018 (Proper 7: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

"And Christ died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves." -2 Corinthians 5:15

Christ's death is God's ultimate gift to us, and probably one of the most difficult realizations we can have as God's children is that everything we have 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

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/>

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: Today is your day!

June 24th, 2018 (Proper 8: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

“See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” -2 Corinthians 6:2

Have you ever had a moment that seemed to be more important than anything else? Some examples of days like this might be your wedding day, or when a child was born, or possibly a great personal achievement. God’s gift of Christ into our lives is just such a day, but we don’t always realize the amazing moment for what it is. Yet, today, this very day, God is pouring into your hearts the gift of the Holy Spirit. This wonderful gift happens every day of our lives; we can wake up every morning and say, “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!”