

Contemplating Stewardship¹ for NL

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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: Guard Your Heart

September 2nd, 2018 (Proper 17: 15th Sunday after Pentecost, "Stewardship/Generosity" wk3)
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." -Luke 12:34

It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. But as Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in heaven, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The kingdom comes from God, and it comes through God's will. God calls us to serve and keep the whole world. We must guard our hearts from worldly treasure that may entice us to build our own kingdom on earth rather than God's. And then, in doing God's will, we need to let go of our own treasured imaginations on how to best implement God's kingdom. As stewards, we need to seek God's will for earth through constant discernment of scripture reading and prayer so that our treasure is indeed heavenly.

Contemplating Stewardship: The Faithfulness of God

September 9th, 2018 (Proper 18: 16th Sunday after Pentecost, "Flood and Promise")
"When the bow is in the clouds, I will see and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." -Genesis 9:16

This unconditional eternal promise is made to humans and to every living creature on earth. A rainbow appears when the sun's rays of light shine on the rain falling from clouds. God, therefore, is making a commitment to preserve the opposites of creation—sunlight and rain, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, day and night, Spirit and flesh. The balance of opposites preserves the creation. Balance is part of God's 'shalom'. As stewards, we are peacemakers in keeping this balance through our service and caring for creation.

Contemplating Stewardship: The Quality of Greatness

September 16th, 2018 (Proper 19: 17th Sunday after Pentecost, "Call of Abraham")
"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." -Genesis 12:2

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 blesses Abram and makes him great, and changes his name to Abraham because God's original intention in creation will be brought forth in the lives of all through Abraham. God would eventually substantiate the promise to Abram by reckoning Abraham's belief as righteousness. Likewise, our stewardship will attain a quality of greatness through our belief in the good news of Jesus Christ. Our faith will be reckoned to us as righteousness as we love and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as stewards through our service to others and in our caring for the world.

Contemplating Stewardship: Prospering as a Steward

September 23rd, 2018 (Proper 20: 18th Sunday after Pentecost, "Joseph in Prison")

"The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it." -Genesis 39:22

Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, who was an officer of Pharaoh. Potiphar found favor in Joseph because he could see God was with Joseph and that the Lord caused all that Joseph did to prosper. Potiphar made Joseph a steward. Joseph oversaw all that belonged to Potiphar. When falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and sent to prison, Joseph found favor with the chief jailor who could see that the Lord was with Joseph and loved him. The chief jailor committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners in the prison. If we take Joseph's experience as a slave and prisoner into consideration, we could conclude that no matter what our situation, God's foremost honor and reward will result in our becoming a steward.

Contemplating Stewardship: Growing in Relationship with Jesus

September 30th, 2018 (Proper 21: 19th Sunday after Pentecost, "Rescue at the Sea")

"But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today;" -Exodus 14:13

Moses is YHWH's servant, a steward of the Lord's household, which is the people of Israel. In trusting Moses, people trust the Lord. The people trust Moses and therefore trust the Lord because they know Moses has been with God from the origin and authority of Moses' words. The same is true today. A person can know God and trust God by loving someone or being in contact with someone in whom God dwells. When we are good stewards, we act on the indwelling of the Lord in us. Through stewardship, we grow in our relationship with Jesus. And others can get to know Jesus by our Christ-like actions in giving of ourselves.