

Contemplating Stewardship¹ for RCL

Just copy and paste into your bulletin!

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! This month's reflections come to us courtesy of Rob Blezard.

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 4, 2018 (24th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 12:33 – To love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Church stewardship is often preoccupied with money, but what does God really want? The scribe in today's Gospel explains it succinctly: Truly loving God and neighbor is worth more than offerings and sacrifices. But if we achieve this kind of love, giving generously comes much more easily.

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 11, 2018 (25th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 12:43 – Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

One measure of a gift's true value is the capacity of the one who gives it. What do the gifts you now offer God in time, talent and treasure really cost you? How might you prayerfully improve?

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 18, 2018 (26th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Psalms 16:11 – You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

As we grow in spiritual maturity, steward/disciples learn ever more deeply the difference between the fleeting, shallow happiness the world offers and the rich, satisfying joy and pleasures of our life in God.

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 25, 2018 (27th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 6:31, 33 – Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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/>

It's a matter of priority. That's been God's message through the ages. Focus on God! Yes, work hard at your job. And, yes, maintain healthy relationships with your family and friends, but put God first, always. And don't worry.