

Contemplating Stewardship¹

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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: God's Work

December 3, 2017 (1st Sunday of Advent, Year B)

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." -Isaiah 64:8

We believe every person is created in the image of God. The prophet Isaiah declares we are like clay which God, the potter, shapes and forms. When we are mindful of how we care for our body, mind, and spirit, we are stewarding the work of God's hands. It is important to prayerfully request the Holy Spirit help you discern how God is molding you. The closer we are to God's intent, the more fulfilled and at peace we will be.

Contemplating Stewardship: Cultivate Patience

December 10, 2017 (2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

"The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." -2 Peter 3:9

Patience is difficult to maintain, especially when God's plan moves at a different pace than our own. The Apostle Peter tell us that God is patient with us, not wanting any to perish, but so all can come to repentance. We are called to cultivate patience within ourselves and others, this way we can mindfully attend to the many needs in caring for God's creation. In everything you do, strive to be at peace with waiting; waiting for the moment when God calls you to act.

Contemplating Stewardship: God's Anointing

December 17, 2017 (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;" -Isaiah 61:1

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was only the beginning of God's good news to creation. These words of Isaiah summarize the call God has placed on all who have been anointed in Holy Baptism. God sends those who are marked by the cross of Christ out into the

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/>

broken place to fulfill all that God has promised. We believe living into our baptismal promises matters because through our hands, feet, and voice, God makes a real difference in the world.

Contemplating Stewardship: Facing Fear

December 24, 2017 (4th Sunday of Advent, Year B)

"Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her." -Luke 1:38

Stewardship of faith begins with trust. Mary could only trust that God would not abandon her as she faced impossible odds. Yet, even though she was faced with certain death she chose to believe in God rather than be control by fear. Would you live differently if you chose trusting God over fear? Stewardship of faith begins with trusting God and recognizing that everything you have belongs to God. Only then will you find the courage to say I am your servant Lord.

Contemplating Stewardship: Gratitude

December 31, 2017 (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)

"And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying , 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." -Galatians 4:6-7

Stewardship is not about money, it is about gratitude for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul summarized very nicely in his letter to the Galatians all we have to be grateful for. God sends the Spirit of Christ into our hearts so we might have the courage to cry out to God like we are calling out to a parent. Because of Christ, we are no longer slaves; rather we are beloved children who have inherited eternal life. This is the message we are to steward.