

Contemplating Stewardship¹

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: Called to Care

January 7th, 2018 (Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Year B)

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth," -Genesis 1:1

A great deal can be learned about God just from this opening line. These first words of Genesis declared that God brought order out of chaos, that God create all that is. And just a few lines later humanity will be called to care for it. As conscious beings, made in the image of God, we are commanded to steward the earth with the same care and compassion that God shows us in these first verses of Genesis.

Contemplating Stewardship: Speak

January 14, 2018 (2nd Sunday of Epiphany, Year B)

"Then the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" and Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." -Samuel 3:11

God has a calling on your life. Yet, like Samuel we often don't know where to go when we hear our name called. This all changes the moment we stop thinking we need to go somewhere and start believing that God has a use for us right where we are. How can you make a difference with what you have? What gifts or talents could you provide for a neighbor in need? Why not take a risk and make a difference. When you hear God call your name, boldly say right where you stand, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Contemplating Stewardship: Life of Discipleship

January 21st, 2018 (3rd Sunday of Epiphany, Year B)

"And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." -Mark 1:17

There is no one-sized-fits-all answer to how Christ is calling us. Each of us has our own unique calling, yet the One who is calling us is the same. When Christ calls you, it is not to add another name to the membership rolls; rather it is to transform what you do into a life of discipleship. For Simon and Andrew, they would continue to practice their vocational skills as fishermen, but the waters they would be navigating would be the vast ocean of people. How will you put your vocational skills into practice?

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/>

Contemplating Stewardship: Tending Faith

January 28th, 2018 (4th Sunday of Epiphany, Year B)

"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." -1 Corinthians 8:9

The eighth commandment declares that we are not to bear false witness against our neighbor, and this command is echoed in these words of the Apostle Paul to the churches in Corinth. Since we are not able to understand the intentions or even the perception of our neighbor, we are called to trust that their motives are pure and worthy of our respect. We may be wiser for placing our faith in what God does for us through Jesus Christ, but this does not make us better. We must mindfully tend and care for the faith we've been given, because it has power to change hearts or cause our neighbor to stumble.