Week 1, lay reader talk

(It would even be more effective to have a member give a personal testimonial.)

**Stewards Walking by Grace**

This is the first week of our stewardship emphasis, **Everyday Stewards**. Our focus for today is   
Stewards Walking by Grace.” Because of sin in the world, we may know of God, but we do not know God. Because of God’s grace, we are enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament to know God as our Heavenly Father, Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the Spirit as our Comforter. By grace, we know that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus and that God seeks a relationship with us. By grace, we know that God has adopted us as His children and called us to be His stewards of all that He entrusts to us.

Because we know that we have a God Who loves us, has adopted us as His children, and wants the best for us, we are energized to be about His work. Out of gratitude for who God is and what He has done and continues to do for us, we respond by using our lives and blessings in ways that give honor and praise to our Lord. Acknowledging God as our creator and sustainer of all things, we understand our role as God’s stewards. As God’s stewards, we seek to manage our time, talents, and money faithfully according to His will, which we discover in His Word. We become God’s instruments through whom He works to further His kingdom and help those in need. What a blessing and great honor it is that God has chosen us to be His stewards! May God continue to encourage and equip us to be His faithful everyday stewards who have been shaped by His grace.

Our theme for next week is “Stewardship as a Way of Life.”