Newsletter article (preceding emphasis)

**Coming Soon: “Everyday Stewards”**

Our stewardship emphasis, **Everyday Stewards**, starts on \_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_. An everyday steward is someone whose way of life is stewardship rather than just token acts of kindness here and there. By God’s grace, everyday stewards continually express their gratitude and faithfulness to the Lord. Through faith, they break the grip that money and possessions can have on them as they place their trust and security in the Lord. Everyday stewards love because God first loved (1 John 4:19). They serve because God first served them (Matthew 20:28). They give because God first gave to them (John 3:16). They give themselves as *“a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”* (Romans 12:1). Everyday stewards strive to follow and use God’s guidance, strength, and wisdom. With God’s help, they live lives in accordance with the Gospel of God’s love and grace.

In his book, *Stepping Stones of the Steward*, Ron Vallet wrote, “Stewards are not simply born. We are created and molded as stewards by the Holy Spirit in a life-long process that includes conversion to the shape of the life we see in Jesus Christ and many experiences of losing and finding our way in the Lord.” Despite our unworthiness, God has chosen us in Christ to become His stewards. By our own reason or strength, we are unable to be faithful in our stewardship, but, through the Holy Spirit working within us through Word and Sacrament, we can be faithful stewards. It is our connection to Christ which enables us to be everyday stewards. As the Apostle Paul wrote, *“I can do all things through Him Who gives me strength”* (Philippians 4:13). God equips us to do whatever He calls us to do.

Stewardship is our response to the faith that God gives us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Stewardship is faith in action. It is our whole-hearted response to God’s redeeming love. Faith gives us access to God’s endless source of power, and faith produces the works of love that we do in Christ. God’s grace enables us to express our faith in the way that we live our lives. Through the continued reading and study of God’s Word and through faithful attendance at the Lord’s Table, we are nourished, strengthened, and sustained in our faith.

May our stewardship emphasis **Everyday Stewards** deepen your relationship with Jesus and be a blessing to you in your stewardship journey.