

**Stewardship Emphasis:**

**“Everyday Stewards”**

**Starting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Week One: “We are Ambassadors for Christ”**



**Defining Stewardship**

Stewardship is faith in action as we manage faithfully our God-given lives and blessings. According to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s Stewardship Department, “Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.” As stewards, we receive God’s blessings thankfully, manage them faithfully, and share them generously. Here are five key stewardship truths:

1. God is the owner (Psalm 24:1; 100:3).
2. God calls us as His stewards (Genesis 1:28; 2:15).
3. We are stewards by God’s grace (Titus 2:11-14).
4. We are to manage our lives and our blessings according to God’s will (Romans 12:2).
5. We are accountable to God (Hebrews 4:13).

God honors us with the privilege of being stewards of His creation. He gives us dominion over all that He has created (Psalm 8:6). Through faith, we are enabled to understand our role and purpose for our stewardship and fulfill our responsibilities.

A group of hands holding a small house

Description automatically generatedGod initiates, and we respond. He loves us first so we can love. He serves so we can serve. He gives so we can give. Stewardship is seen in our deeds and actions, but it is not a finite sphere of activity. It is a total life response to God’s love and grace. Stewardship has to do with every single area of our lives, even our thoughts. Stewardship is the living expression of our Christian faith. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we become managers, caretakers, or custodians of gifts that belong to God.

**Everyday Stewards**

We are stewards every day of the week. It is 24/7 and involves all that we are and do. Being a steward is our identity. Living with the perspective of an everyday steward changes everything. The Apostle Paul expresses it this way, *“And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17). God wants our commitment and devotion all day and every day.

Again, in the third chapter of Colossians, Paul tells us that we *“have* *put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self which is being renewed in the knowledge after the image of its Creator”* (3:9-11). Through the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, we become everyday stewards who serve the Lord wherever we are. Serving the Lord is seen in our worship, being in prayer, giving to others, serving others, being respectful, being thankful, and being involved. When we manage and oversee faithfully all that He entrusts to us, we live as everyday stewards.

Our challenge is to affirm God’s ownership and serve as stewards, not as owners, of what He has provided for us. When we seek opportunities to use our blessings for the benefit of others and to advance God’s kingdom, He is praised, and we are blessed.

God equips and empowers us for stewardship. Our acts of stewardship become more Christ-like as our relationship with Jesus grows. Out of love and gratitude for our Savior Who has redeemed us, we are eager to perform our stewardship activities. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we become faithful stewards who respond willingly and joyfully to God’s love, goodness, and mercy.

**Blessings on Your Journey to Be an Everyday Steward!**