Newsletter article

**Everyday Stewards**

This year’s annual stewardship emphasis is titled **Everyday Stewards**. In this three-week emphasis, we will learn that, by God’s grace working through His Word, we have been called and given the high honor of being His stewards (Genisis 1:28; 2:15). As God’s stewards, we have the privilege and responsibility to manage faithfully, according to His will, all that He entrusts to us. We are expected to protect and care for His creation in a wise and benevolent way. Through faith, we understand that our lives are on loan from God. When God’s grace and love fill our hearts, our stewardship is not limited to certain days of the week or specific acts but instead becomes a lifestyle. Stewardship is our response to the faith that God gives us through His Word and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Transformed by God’s Spirit, we are enabled to acknowledge both our identity and purpose as God’s stewards, and, as a result, we live as everyday stewards.

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In His ministry on earth, Jesus, our Chief Steward, became our model for stewardship. At great cost, Jesus has freed us from the power of the Law with His innocent and precious blood so that we may serve Him in “everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed). Our motivation and strength to live as everyday stewards come from the power of the Cross.

In our sinful human nature, we desire to be served and to have others satisfy our wants. We do not want to be stewards. Our first impulse is the desire to be owners. We want to have possession of things. By God’s grace, we become stewards who receive God’s gifts thankfully, manage His gifts faithfully, and give them generously. Only when our hearts and minds are changed by the Holy Spirit do we embrace our identity as God’s everyday stewards. As God’s people, our minds and hearts have been changed so that we know our lives, gifts, and blessings are gifts from God.

As God’s stewards, we know that we have been given much responsibility. With responsibility comes accountability. *“Moreover,”* writes the Apostle Paul, *“it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy”* (1 Corinthians 4:2). May we, like the two faithful stewards we read about in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), hear our Master’s gracious words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*