

Your Stewardship Toolkit for July 2021!

July's theme: Stewardship of our bodies

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Check out my website: thestewardshipguy.com



If you want the free Toolkit sent directly to your inbox every month, [just drop me an email](#).

Feel free to forward it to colleagues who might find it useful.

Consistent communication, education and action can help your congregation develop a healthy culture of stewardship and generosity. This Toolkit can help get you there!

The resources of this Toolkit are most effective when used to support a monthly emphasis about a different aspect of stewardship. Exploring this month's theme, "Stewardship of our bodies," your congregation might not only share the newsletter article but also plan Bible studies, temple talks, a preaching series, or other activities.

Here's what you'll find in the Toolkit:

-Snippets: Cut and paste a monthly themed "Stewardship Snippet" in every Sunday bulletin! It's a verse or two from the week's Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection.

-Newsletter Article: Cut and paste a fresh article on stewardship every month in your newsletter.

-General Resource Websites: – These are places you can go for great ideas to jump start your stewardship ministry!

Stewardship Snippets

Copy and paste into your bulletin!

Source: Rob Blezard.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9), July 4, 2021

"Three times I appealed to the Lord about this [my weakness], that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'" – 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Paul never reveals his "weakness," but he does tell us that God's grace is sufficient for him, and his power is made perfect in weakness. If you are differently abled or live with a chronic condition, don't despair. God's love and power and purpose flow through you.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10), July 11, 2021

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you. – Psalm 85:8

Doctors have long known that our mental and spiritual attitudes have a direct impact on our physical health. Through prayer and meditation we can discover the peace that God promises to give us, and this can assist us in attaining optimal health.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11), July 18, 2021

Jesus said to his apostles, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. -Mark 6:31

Jesus knew that he and his followers needed good nutrition and adequate rest to fulfill their mission, so he ordered them to chill out. For you to function optimally, make it a point to eat healthful foods and to get enough sleep.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12), July 25, 2021

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

Remember that we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us in our efforts to steward our bodies to good health. Scripture abounds with feeding stories—two in this week’s lessons alone—so we can trust that God will provide for our needs if we put forth the effort. Eat well, share what you have, and trust God to help you care for the marvelous gift of your physical body.

July 2021 newsletter article (269 words)

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Stewardship of our bodies

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. -Genesis 2:7

If not for the breath of God alive within each of us, our physical bodies would be just 100-plus pounds of dead water and minerals. Intricate vehicles that carry us through our years, our bodies teem with the holy life that God gives us.

As sacred vessels of life, our bodies deserve the best care and attention we can possibly give them. As a culture, though, we aren't doing a very good job of it.

Though the United States spends more on medical care than any other nation, we consistently rank low in overall health. Bloomberg's 2020 Global Health Rankings put us at Number 35. (The top five: Spain, Italy, Iceland, Japan, and Switzerland. Canada was 16.) A prime reason is obesity, which affects 43 percent of Americans and contributes to a wide range of chronic health conditions.

Of course, genetics plays a big role in everyone's health, and it's one of the factors over which we have no control. But there are a lot of variables we can work with to increase our health and take care of the sacred life-bearing vessels God has given us.

For the month of July, pray for God's guidance to help you care for your body. Consult your doctor and read up on diet, exercise, and stress reduction. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and wisdom to learn what to do, and then the courage and discipline to follow through.

--Rob Blezard

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General Stewardship Resource Websites

Stewardship of Life Institute– Headquartered at United Lutheran Seminary, this site has a trove of resources in areas of congregational and personal stewardship. (www.stewardshipoflife.org)

ELCA Stewardship Resources– Our denomination’s deep well of materials. (www.elca.org/stewardship)

Center for Stewardship Leaders – Luther Seminary’s excellent website. (faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/)

The ELCA Foundation a ministry of our denomination. (www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation)

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