

Your Stewardship Toolkit for May 2021!

May's theme: Stewards of our elders' wisdom

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*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, "Stewards of our elders' wisdom," 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 quote from the week's Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection.

-Newsletter Article: Cut and paste an 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021

"Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord." –**Psalm 22:30**

Who first told you the good news about Jesus? Chances are it was a beloved elder, either a family member or pillar of the church. We receive the wisdom of our ancestors, and then we take on the mantle of responsibility and good stewardship to pass that good news along to future generations.

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021

"I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." –**John 15:17**

Commandments and instruction are necessary parts of growing into adulthood and growing in the faith. While we may chafe at such stewardship, we realize that they are given in love for our good. We can give thanks to our ancestors for passing on the faith and teaching us God's commandments.

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16, 2021

"As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." —**John 17:18**

Jesus prayerfully sent his disciples into the world knowing the challenges that awaited them. Likewise, our elders steward us into the world with prayer, love, and hope. They know the difficulties that await; yet they send us on as God's beloved children first and always.

Day of Pentecost, May 23, 2021

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." —**Romans 8:26**

We rest assured that we are covered in prayer by the Holy Spirit, and also by the prayers and love of our elders and ancestors whose job it is to steward us toward deeper faith and beloved community.

Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me.' —**Isaiah 6:8**

When were you first aware of God calling you to deeper faith and service? Was it through the voice and wisdom of a beloved elder or through the witness of a treasured ancestor? Steward these stories carefully and pass them on to the generations to come in the name of the Triune God.

May 2021 newsletter article (266 words)

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Stewards of our elders' wisdom

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” —**Exodus 20:12**

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day, God’s people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts, and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect, and value as “elders” their oldest members. It’s something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--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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