

Your Stewardship Toolkit for October 2021!

October's theme: A harvest of sufficiency, contentment, and generosity

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Good, thoughtful, consistent communication, education and action will help your congregation develop a healthy culture of stewardship and generosity. This kit is designed to help get you there!

You can use the resources of this kit by themselves to educate and encourage stewardship, but they would be more effective as a monthly emphasis that lifted up a different aspect of stewardship. You could plan bible studies, temple talks, a preaching series, and other activities.

Here's what you'll find below:

- Stewardship Snippets:** Put a "Stewardship Snippet" every week in your Sunday bulletin! It's a quote from the week's Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection. Just cut and paste!
- Newsletter Article:** Publish something in your newsletter every month on stewardship and faith, or post it on your website. Keep your people thinking about stewardship. Just cut and paste!
- General Resource Websites:** – These are places you can go for inspiration and great ideas!

Stewardship Snippets

Copy and paste into your bulletin!

Source: Rob Blezard

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 3, 2021 (19th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Psalm 8:4, 6 –What are human beings that you [Lord] are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

God gives us dominion over God's creation, which means we're in charge. But that also means we have a duty to treat the created world respectfully and use its resources responsibly. How do you think we're doing? As steward-disciples, how can we do better?

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 10, 2021 (20th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark10:24b, 25 –Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom

of God."

When he talks about money, Jesus frequently uses words of warning. Why does wealth hinder rich people from entering the Kingdom of God? How are you managing? How can we, as steward-disciples, do better?

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 17, 2021 (21st Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 10:42-44—Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

Jesus gives us a reality that's topsy-turvy from what we know! We achieve greatness by serving others? Why is this so hard? What kind of heart-transformation does it require?

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 24, 2021 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 10:51—Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

The blind man articulates the faithful prayer of all steward-disciples. We want to see! Help us see the world around us through eyes of God's love and mercy.

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 31, 2021 (23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 12:33 —To love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Church stewardship is often preoccupied with money, but what does God really want? Today's Gospel explains it succinctly: Truly loving God and neighbor is worth more than offerings and sacrifices. When we achieve this kind of love, giving generously comes much more easily.

Newsletter article

Select the one below, or from the [Toolkit Newsletter Article Archive](#)

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A harvest of sufficiency, contentment, and generosity

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. –Leviticus 19:9-10

“What I earn is mine, ALL mine, to do with what I want.” That’s the message our culture tells us again and again. Yet the Leviticus 19:9-10 clearly tells us that the “mine, all mine” attitude existed some 2,500 years ago as well. It’s hard-wired into us.

Our sinful human nature leads us to claim all we can for ourselves, which is why for thousands of years and up to the present God has called faithful people to live a better way. In this passage, “the Lord your God” instructs farmers and vintners to harvest only once, and not to the very edges of their land, and to leave the remnants of the harvest to the poor and the foreigner – people on the margins scavenging for their daily bread.

The teaching encourages landowners to find sufficiency in their first harvest, to be content that their needs are met, and then be generous with what is left over. Today, Leviticus 19:9-10 challenges us whose “harvests” of income are more than sufficient to satisfy our immediate needs. Do we *have* to take it all? What can we give for the needy?

In this traditional season of harvest, what blessings can you count from the last year? (Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider this, and make a list). Does your harvest more than adequately meet your needs?

Now prayerfully consider how much you can generously “leave” for the needy? Consider this in making a year-end contribution to your congregation, or in determining a pledge for 2022.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

General Stewardship Resource Websites

[Stewardship of Life Institute](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org)— 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](http://www.elca.org/stewardship)– Our denomination’s deep well of materials. (www.elca.org/stewardship)

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

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

[The Episcopal Network for Stewardship](http://www.tens.org/) – Solid resources! (www.tens.org/).

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