

Your Stewardship Toolkit for November 2021!

November's theme: Thanksgiving's path to contentment

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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

Nov. 7, 2021 (24th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 12:43 –Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

One measure of a gift's true value is the degree to which one sacrifices to give it. What do the gifts you now offer God in time, talent and treasure really cost you? How might you prayerfully improve?

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 14, 2021 (25th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Psalm 16:11–You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

As we grow in spiritual maturity, steward/disciples learn ever more deeply the difference between the fleeting, shallow happiness the world offers and the rich, satisfying joy and pleasures of our life in God.

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 21, 2021 ([Reign of Christ Sunday, Year B](#))

Revelation 1:4b— Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.
As did other New Testament writers, the author of Revelation blesses his readers with “grace” and “peace” of Christ. Truly, if we have Christ’s grace and peace in our hearts, we will find true contentment.

Stewardship Snippet

Nov. 28, 2021 ([1st Sunday of Advent, Year B](#))

Psalm 25:4— Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
The First Sunday of Advent’s theme is hope. Christians find our hope in God. We hunger for God and ask for guidance and strength to live fully as steward/disciples.

Newsletter article

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Thanksgiving’s path to contentment

“Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”
—**Hebrews 13:5**

What would it take to make you happy? Really. In our culture, advertisements sell us on the idea that true happiness is always just one more purchase away. When we believe this, we put ourselves on the hamster wheel of want. No matter how hard we run, we will never get to happiness.

More often than happiness, the Bible speaks of contentment. The two concepts are often confused, but the distinction is important. Whereas happiness is a pleasurable sensation that rises and falls like the tide, contentment is a state of satisfaction that remains calm, like the surface of a pond.

God calls us to live contentedly, finding sufficiency in our lives, our relationships, and all we possess. We are enough. We have enough. When our essential needs are met, incessant wants do not infest our soul like itchy fleas.

How do we find contentment? Thankfulness provides a way. We give thanks for all we are and all we have, appreciating every blessing. Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, make a pledge to yourself this

November to find contentment through giving thanks. Make a “Gratitude List” of everything for which you are thankful. Review it daily, praying over each blessing, “I thank God for” Add to it as you think of new things.

May you finish November as someone who is not only thankful, but also content with all you are and all you have.

--*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– 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)

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

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