



**Knowing God's Truth
Living God's Love
Spreading God's Word**

Calvary Lutheran Church

January 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would be willing to bet that when you hear the word “stewardship,” chances are your first thought goes straight to money. If the church is preparing to have stewardship Sunday, most people tend to assume it’s because the church needs to boost its financials to ensure the bills get paid and perhaps support various special ministries of interest to the congregation. And truth be told, most people wouldn’t be wrong. Even though your church is a non-profit organization, it still functions like any other business when it comes to paying bills. And to be able to do that, the church is dependent on people financially supporting it.

But stewardship isn’t just limited to dollar signs. In fact, many of you probably remember of stewardship Sunday’s gone by when you received a “Time, Talent, and Treasure Sheet,” complements of your Stewardship Board at the church. On that sheet was a plethora of places and things where you could donate not only your dollars, but also your time and talents. You would fill out those forms and on Stewardship Sunday, you would place your diligently and prayerfully filled out sheets in the offering plate or in a box in front of the church, covenanting to be a good steward with the things God has given to you for the good of your church, your community, and dare I say, especially your home.

Stewardship in your home is the first place I’d like you to consider for this first newsletter article about stewardship. The LCMS has some very good insights into how stewardship fits into the lives of God’s people and I’d like to share those sentiments with you. In the next few paragraphs, you will hear that when it comes to stewardship, the chief stewards of humanity are Mom and Dad. I pray as we begin this journey of discussing the role of stewardship in our daily lives, that God would make Himself so very real to you and fill your heart to the brim with His grace, leaving you with the recognition of just how wonderfully and fearfully you have been made and equipped with remarkable skills and talents and treasures and testimonies. God be praised!

[From the LCMS]

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39). The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

Pastor Kessler



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE. Plans are underway for the annual rummage sale. Watch for further notices.

January Birthdays

Cindy Lange – 1/3
 Terry Pray – 1/3
 Tracy Atchley – 1/7
 Hank Green – 1/10
 Lily Green – 1/11
 Ryker Morris – 1/12
 Marilyn Damet – 1/13
 Donna Barton – 1/14
 Austin Kessler – 1/14
 Glen Wagner – 1/19
 Alvin Broyles IV – 1/23
 Keith Dennis – 1/23
 Braeden Dames – 1/26
 Carolyn Macomber – 1/31



Betty Stewart – 1/1
 Matt Wilder – 1/1
 Pam Green – 1/1
 Randy Williams – 1/7
 Lisa White – 1/1
 Glenn Lange – 1/1
 Johnnie Ehrlich – 1/3
 Gladys Timoruski – 1/7
 Brian Rochester – 1/10
 Donna Barton – 1/14
 Roxana Williams – 1/26



Ryan & Caitlyn Pope – 1/1
 Dennis & Vicky Johnson – 1/9
 Ronald & Evelyn Foster – 1/18
 Mark & Terri Jo Ford – 1/21
 Earl & Samantha Hamilton – 1/28

