

The Theology of Stewardship: Whole-Life Stewardship

by Rev Richard Gabl The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Stewardship Ministry

Perhaps the point might be phrased this way: Is stewardship the regular financial enlistment process for a congregation that results in estimates of giving that increase each year, or is stewardship the managing of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes? Is stewardship just something to check off a list, or is it a matter of vocation? Solidly biblical definitions of stewardship may well be undermined by congregational practices that imply the opposite — practices that result in congregational members feeling as if they are

being treated as “automated teller machines” or, even worse, that they have been mugged by a fundraiser.

Put another way, is Christian stewardship a part-time or a full-time matter? Is being a disciple of Jesus Christ an occasional activity, or is discipleship our vocation in the home, in the church and in society? The answers to these questions make a difference. There is an old tale about a conversation between two barnyard rivals for status. The subject was which one made

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Christian Ed

Concordia Junior High Youth Gathering is Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 and registration is now open. The theme is “Embrace(d) based on Luke 15:20 and the cost is \$30. Contact Elizabeth Eppler if you have questions or would like registration details. Open to students in 6th – 8th grades.

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS
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Ham Dinner
Hosted by the Ladies Posse



EUCHRE PARTY!!
Hosted by the Board of Christian Ed
Feb 22, 2020



Bring a dish to pass for the Dinner
Be here at **5:00 PM** and cards start at **6:30 PM**.

Bring a dessert or appetizer dish to share

Hands End at 9:30

A Movie will be provided for kids



OPPORTUNITIES IN GOD’S WORD

Tuesday Morning
Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
We have just started Lutheranism 101. What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you’re a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers, or are just curious about the Lutheran church—this book is for you! Conversational and fun to flip through, this reference guide helps



you easily get to know theology basics in a way that won’t make your brain hurt.

If evenings are better, join us at the **Cottage Meetings** the last Friday of the month at 7 p.m. hosted at a member’s home. Cottage meeting this month **will be hosted by the Meyers**

Pastor Snider’s Sunday Adult Bible Study is continuing through the Lighthouse Series: Acts Part 2. The book of Acts records God’s glorious actions among the first believers. It reveals the light of Christ, which spread by speech and scroll from Jerusalem down to today.

We hope to see all of you at one or more of these Bible Studies.

“*Tips for Instilling Life Values in Children*” By Stephenie Hovland

(edited from ‘Life Date’ winter 2019)

The following is a practical guide to each age level, from toddlers through middle-school-age children to help build a foundation of values for children.

Toddlers

They love to imitate the grown-ups, encourage them to practice living in a family. Watch as they care for their baby dolls and take on “grown-up responsibilities.” Consider play-acting that you are Great-Great-Grandma and need them to help take care of you. You can show them life-affirming behaviors, as you play.

“Why?” is a favorite question of toddlers and pre-school age. If they ask why a baby is in Mommy’s tummy, for example, realize that they are not asking for all details of conception. You can find out what they already know and what they actually expect by first asking them, “What do you think?” Use their answer to give them a bit more information.

Find reading materials that support life issues. Many storybooks have some life and family values in them. As you read, notice them and repeat them. You can even point to pictures and help the toddler notice the babies, the moms, the grandpas, etc. Play a game of “see all the people God made” or “find all the people God loves.”

Preschool/Kindergarten

Children this age may show more interest in the opposite-sex parent. This is your chance to model positive relationships with them. It will give them clues as to what to expect from a future spouse. They will also be watching the same-sex parent for cues about their own identity.

Some may become more aware of double standards. “That’s not fair” may pop up over any perceived inequities, so use this stage

to show how God values life at all ages. For example, you can notice, together, that it’s not fair to say a grown-up person is more valuable than a tiny baby or an older person.

They continue to be curious. “Why?” and “What?” can drive conversations, try to have patience and help them satisfy curiosity, especially in regard to God, life, and faith. Children this age like to categorize and sort, so help them to define and categorize people. Who is a person? What makes someone a living person? Some children may not be quite ready for this abstract thinking, but you can keep it simple and elaborate more as they grow older.

Elementary-School Age

Play is still important to learning and development. Encourage children to be sensitive to others as they play. Be cautious of media input since it is also helping form their values. If something happens during play or entertainment, this is the perfect time to stop and discuss it. Often children consume media as neutral or positive, not realizing that they may go against the family’s and God’s values. Reinforce what is right.

Children are developing a deeper sense of identity at this age. Give them examples of the wonderful variety of people God has made and loves. For example, girls can love playing rough and boys can be sensitive—that does not make them something different. God’s creation includes people of many different personalities and talents.

Family togetherness is important at this age, so do devotions together. Read and watch movies together. It’s a great time to bond and to discuss how it all fits into God’s world. This is a crucial time to establish family values. Whatever you choose to spend time doing will be perceived as a

family value. If it’s truly important to be together, be sure to set time aside for that—intentionally. It becomes harder and harder as children get older.

Middle-School Ages

A natural time of challenge, this is when preteens and teens may actually ask, “Did God really say that?” They may seem argumentative, but they genuinely want answers. They’re thinking more abstractly and understanding more deeply, so go as deep as you are able with your answers. They may seem to resist your guidance and authority, so leave books sitting around the house that they can discover and read on their own. Sometimes suggesting they read it can mean they never pick it up, but letting them take the lead can work better. Some children are more open to listening at this age, so take advantage of that at times.

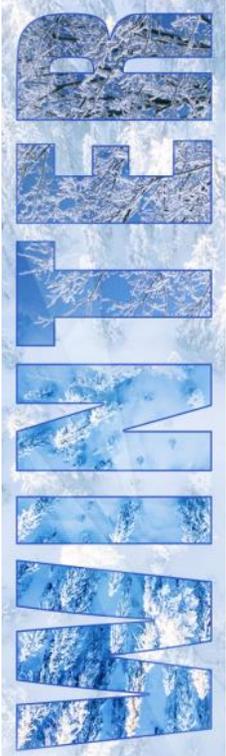
Remind them of your family values. Invite them to join you in Bible study, devotions, etc., to keep those biblical lines open. Talk about your vulnerabilities and your faith.

Be ready to insist on boundaries; even better, talk about boundaries before they are needed. If the middle schooler can help set boundaries, it is empowering to them; they take ownership.

Children this age often like to join clubs and groups. Encourage them to join groups that are life-affirming. As they become teens, their desire for social justice can be used to help support suicide prevention and elder abuse, for example. If they like to lead, you could suggest they start a group that makes baby hats, visits nursing homes, or throws baby showers for teen moms. Help them to use this time of extra energy and creativity to serve God and serve others.



February 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 8:00 - 3:30 Theological conference
2 8:45 Bible class Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Comm.	3 7:00pm Trustees	4 10:00 Bible Study	5 6:00 pm Prayer Warriors 7:00 Choir	6 7:00 Posse	7	8
9 8:45 Bible class Sunday School 10:00 Worship	10	11 10:00 Bible Study	12 6:00 pm Prayer Warriors 7:00 Choir	13 7:00 Elders	14	15
16 8:45 Bible class Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Comm.	17	18 10:00 Bible Study	19 6:00 pm Prayer Warriors 7:00 Choir	20 7:pm Council	21	22 Ham Dinner and Euchre Youth Lock-in
23 8:45 Bible class Sunday School 10:00 Worship	24	25 10:00 Bible Study	26 6:30 Ash Wednesday service	27	28 Cottage Meeting Place to be announced	29
1	2	Notes	Acolyte: Feb 2 Brianna Polenz Altar Guild Feb 9 Erik Swanson ☐ Feb 16 Luke Eppler Feb 23 Ben Ratliff Loraine Laible/ Lynda Minger			

If you would like a link to the Trinity Google Calendar, email Lynda Minger with your request at lyndamngr262@gmail.com

Prayers of Trinity

Praise and thanksgiving:

Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to You, our God, now and forever! Hear us who pray in peace in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray for those among us who are in special need of your guidance and healing:

- Carole Welser
- Carolyn and Joe Benkovsky, especially Joe
- Shut-ins--Caroline Cadeau, Al Jacoby
- Ed Hodgens, Dixie Russel's brother — fell and has bro-

ken bones

- Mila LaMirand Banko — Hear her needs, give her strength
- Jennifer—healing from the loss of her 21 yr old son
- Stuart Meyer — Healing and recent cancer diagnosis
- Don Van Gorden, Dianne and Rudy Vik, Dennis Miller-- strength and health
- Continued healing: Cynthia Moehring, Joanne and Bob Hickman.
- Cindy Klifman, Chuck Harrison, Chuck Crowder, Judy Lasko, Kyle Knipp, Ava

Allen, Tracy Brohmen, Kenny Cadle, Carol Thompson, Sarah Burns, Libby in their battles with cancer.

- for all the baptized, that in daily repentance all might cling to God's promises of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ

“ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK, AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.

FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES; HE WHO SEEKS FINDS;

AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED.”

MATTHEW 7: 7-8



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Robert Brumm Jr. 2/1

Aidan Bumbul 2/3

Andrew Eppler 2/3

Carolyn Benkovsky 2/9

Kyptin Gray 2/9

Sharon Meyer 2/11

Stephanie Sidebottom 2/15

Bryanna Minix 2/16

Kristin Myher 2/18

Gretchen Wick 2/22

Jonah Frazzini 2/23

Claude Ratliff 2/27

Stockbridge Community Outreach

Stockbridge Community Outreach has asked for some much needed items:

- Toilet Paper
- White rice
- Laundry Soap

- Kidney Beans
- Baked Beans

Ask your neighbors also. If you can get the items to Trinity, we will see that they get to out reach

Stewardship and Evangelism *continued*

the greatest contribution to the bacon-and-eggs breakfast. The chicken pointed out that the production of eggs was the critical factor for that important meal to start off the day. The muddy old pig had a differing opinion. To be sure, egg production was a daily matter for chickens. But the pig's part of the meal required total commitment.

This essay endorses the position of total commitment, or whole-life stewardship: using what God has given us according to His purposes for us in our vocations in home, church and society.

1. Paul as Servant, Apostle and Steward

Paul is an excellent starting place to work through this "all of life" concept of stewardship. The student of Scripture recognizes that Paul uses a number of words to describe who he is and what he does. In 1 Corinthians, we find at least three words to describe his self-understanding in

Christ. In 3:5, Paul defines both Apollos and himself as "servants," the word is diakonos in Greek. This servant word is a technical term for one who is assigned or delegated a task by another. In 9:2, he is an "apostle," one who is sent by God to bring the message of salvation to others. While apostle is a term that usually refers to the Twelve, it also is used to describe Paul, Apollos, Timothy and others in the New Testament. Apostle has a missionary flavor; it carries with it the idea of an ambassador representing another. In this case, our Lord. In 4:1 and following, Paul asks the Corinthians to consider them (3:22: Paul, Apollos, Cephas) as "stewards," those who are entrusted with the mysteries of God. Three words: servant (or deacon), apostle and steward. They have a common thrust. God has charged, commissioned and sent Paul and his coworkers to carry out His mission. A case can be made that

these terms are almost interchangeable. Some years back, Douglas Hall made the observation that the people of God are stewards of God's mission. Stewardship, then, is an all-encompassing word, not subject to our usual limitation of what is placed in the offering basket on Sundays. Andrew Lincoln contends in his Commentary on the Gospel of John that the fourth Gospel was written as a mission-training manual. It begins with the Father sending the Son into the world as His agent to live among us so that we see our salvation. The Gospel ends with Jesus telling His followers, "As the Father has sent me, even so send I you." These three words about God's mission — servant, apostle and steward — are a full-time responsibility for the people of God. And for each of us, that means the callings (vocations) God has given us in home, church and society.

Posse News

February Altar Care
is Lynda & Lorraine
February Hostess is Deb
February meeting date is
Thursday February 6

Up Coming Events:

Ham Dinner
Saturday, February
22nd 5 pm
Right before the
Euchre Party

Thank You

To everyone who purchased

gift cards for our Angel Tree. We were able to send \$380 in cards to Wellspring to help families & share the love of Jesus.

There is a thank you letter on the bulletin board in the gathering area.



Thank You

Thank you also to everyone who helped decorate & undecorate the tree & the church for Christmas.

Love Inc Fund Raiser!

When: Wednesday, Feb 5
11am till midnight

Where: Buffalo Wild Wings
Latson Rd., Howell

Why: 20% of your bill will be
Donated to Love, Inc

What: Get your coupon from
the Bulletin board in the nar-
thex to turn in when you pay:
AND Enjoy lunch or dinner!



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«AddressBlock»



LCMS

A note from Noah Armbruster

Hello!

I wanted to thank you all for donating to me this year personally. The only problem is I am in New Zealand. It means so much to me that you not only see God's plan for me, but you also support me financially.

I created a video while in Thailand. Before I release to everyone, I wanted to show you first. My goal was to bless and honour you all and you can watch what God did. I also hope the stories I shared in my newsletter start to come alive. From the hill tribes to the young adults.

I wanted to also thank you for the money which covered all the clothes! And to Mrs Nix who donated Jump Ropes which made playtime SO MUCH FUN.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of 2019. I look forward to seeing you in 2020

Noah
Head Registrar

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