**Your Stewardship Toolkit for November 2023!**

*This month’s message:* **Develop a heart of generosity**

**Rev. Rob Blezard, Web Editor**The Stewardship of Life Institute
editor@stewardshipofllife.org

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*

**November 5, 2023** (If celebrated as All Saints Sunday, Year A)
*“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* **–Psalm 34:1**Today we begin our culture’s month of thanksgiving by giving thanks for the lives of the saints now at rest. This week spend time thanking God for those who have helped form your faith and encouraged your discipleship walk.

**November 5, 2023** (If celebrated as Pentecost 23, Proper 26, Year A)

*“Lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”* **–1 Thessalonians 2:12**

Look at how you use the important gifts God has granted you: your time, your energy, your health, your relationships, and your money. Are you using them to live a life worthy of God? That’s what stewardship is all about – using all our gifts for Godly purposes. So how you doing?

**November 12, 2023** (Pentecost 24, Proper 27, Year A)
*“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”***– Amos 5:24**Through the prophet Amos, God condemns hollow displays of religiosity. What God desires is action –justice and righteousness – ever-flowing from the hearts of those who love the Lord. How can you work for justice in your community.

**November 19, 2023** (Pentecost 25, Proper 28, Year A)

*“I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.”* **–Matthew 25:25**

In Jesus’ day a “talent” was a hefty sum of money, and the characters in the parable are expected to use the talents for profit. Today we think of talents as extraordinary gifts, but the same principle applies. God wants us to use all our talents – and our resources – for Godly purposes, and not just bury them. How are you doing?

**November 26, 2023** (Reign of Christ Sunday, Proper 29, Year A)

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* **–Matthew 25:40**

How do we live as good stewards of our time, our talents and our treasure? In this parable Jesus makes it plain: In compassionate, giving relationship with our neighbors, especially our neighbors who are hungry, naked, sick, in prison or a stranger. How are you loving your needy neighbors?

**Newsletter article – 256 words**

*Just copy and paste into your newsletter!*

**Develop a heart of generosity**

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!* **--1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Would you like to be a more generous person, possessing a generous heart? Then try embracing gratitude as a spiritual practice. Since Thanksgiving is on the 23rd of this month, November is a wonderful time to give it a try.

Gratitude and generosity go together. Whether you’re a millionaire or just middle-class, when you are grateful for what you have, you’ll likely be happier and more satisfied. You will see the world through eyes of abundance and be more likely to give of yourself.

How can we embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice? Paul gives us good advice.

**Give thanks in all circumstances**: Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. In tough times, we can be grateful for what is going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us through.

**Pray without ceasing**: Pray in the shower, in your car, on the beach, on your lunch break, at a stop light, in a grocery line. God hears all your prayers. Pray nonstop.

**Rejoice always**: Look for everyday celebrations every day. Do you have hot water? A car? Clean socks? food? Friends? Rejoice.

For a disciplined approach, keep a journal of your daily thanks, or a “gratitude list” that you can pray over and revise. Keep it up and it’s a good bet that your developing “attitude of gratitude” will result in you becoming more generous and seeing the world through a lens of abundance.

*--Rob Blezard*

*Copyright © 2023, Rev. Robert Blezard. Used by permission. Pastor Blezard serves part-time as web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and full-time as pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.*

[*Click here*](https://thestewardshipguy.com/about-me/) *for a complete and up-to-date bio for Pastor Blezard.*

**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. (<https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/>)

[**ELCA Stewardship Resources**](http://elca.org/stewardship)– Our denomination’s deep well of materials. (<https://www.elca.org/stewardship>)

[**The Episcopal Network for Stewardship**](https://www.tens.org/) – Solid resources! (<https://www.tens.org/>).