**Your Stewardship Toolkit for May 2024!**

*February’s theme:* **The Foundation of Stewardship**

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*If you want the free Toolkit sent directly to your inbox every month,* *just drop me an email**.
Feel free to forward it to colleagues who might find it useful.*

Consistent communication, education and action can help your congregation develop a healthy culture of stewardship and generosity. This Toolkit can help get you there!

**Stewardship Snippets**

*Copy and paste into your bulletin!
Source: Rob Blezard*

**May 5, 2024** (6th Sunday of Easter, Year B)

**John 15:16 –** Jesus said, “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.”

*God has chosen us and given us our bodies, our minds and our spirits. As steward/disciples we are entrusted with these gifts (and God’s Holy Word) for a purpose – to bear fruit for a world that needs it.*

**May 12, 2024** (7th Sunday of Easter, Year B)

**John 17:18** –[Jesus prayed to God about his disciples,] “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

*Because we live in an evil world, we can be tempted to withdraw, shut down, and disengage. But Jesus sends us steward/disciples out into the world, to be bearers of God’s love and light. We engage the world God loves.*

**May 19, 2024** (Pentecost Sunday, Year B)

**Psalm 104:24, 25 –** O LORD, how manifold are your works! … The earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

*We sometimes forget that animals, fish, birds, insects and reptiles are also creations of God that need to live. As stewards of creation, we honor all living things and work to ensure that they, like us, have safe, clean, abundant habitat.*

**May 26, 2024** (Trinity Sunday, Year B)

**Isaiah 6:8 –**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

*Our lives belong to God, and we reach greatest fulfillment when we are accomplishing God’s purposes. We are living right when we can respond to God’s calling with an enthusiastic, “Here I am; send me!”*

**May 2024 newsletter article** (225 words)

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***The Foundation of Stewardship***

*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it.* **-Psalm 24:1**

The Bible consistently gives us a countercultural and counterintuitive understanding of the world and ourselves. It’s so radical that many of us can’t accept it.

The idea is that the world belongs to God, and so does everything ***IN*** the world. Even ***US!***  We, who proudly think of ourselves as autonomous, self-directed and self-made, actually belong to God. In other words, we don’t own ourselves. We are possessions of the Almighty.

Think about that for just a minute. We don’t own the earth, our houses, our cars, our possessions, our animals, our children, or even ourselves. It all belongs to God. We belong to God. We are humble servants, slaves, actually.

The reality that God owns everything, even us, forms the foundation for biblical stewardship. If God owns everything, including us, then we are responsible to God for our wisest and best use of the planet, our possessions, our talents and our lives.

Taking that responsibility seriously, God’s people will prayerfully make choices that are in accordance with God’s wishes. We will care for ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth. We will strive to love the Lord our God with all our being, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayerfully consider, how are you doing?

*--Rob Blezard*

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[*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/>).