**Your Stewardship Toolkit for October 2024!**

*September’s theme:* **Celebrate the miracle of harvest**

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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!

Here’s what you’ll find in the Toolkit:

[**-Snippets:**](#Snippets) Cut and paste a monthly themed “Stewardship Snippet” in every Sunday bulletin! It’s a verse or two from the week’s Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection.

[**-Newsletter Article:**](#Newsletter_Article) Cut and paste a fresh article on stewardship every month in your newsletter.

[**-General Resource Websites**:](#websites) – These are places you can go for great ideas to jump start your stewardship ministry!

**Stewardship Snippets**

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

**October 6, 2024** (Proper 22, Year B)

**Psalm 8:4, 6 –**What are human beings that you [Lord] are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

*God gives us dominion over God’s creation, which means we’re in charge. But that also means we have a duty to treat the created world respectfully and use its resources responsibly. How do you think we’re doing? As steward-disciples, how can we do better?*

**October 13, 2024** (Proper 23, Year B)

**Mark 10:24b, 25 –**Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."
*When he talks about money, Jesus frequently uses words of warning. Why does wealth hinder rich people from entering the Kingdom of God? How are you managing? How can we, as steward-disciples, do better?*

**October 20, 2024** (Proper 24, Year B)

**Mark 10:42-44–**Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

*Jesus gives us a reality that’s topsy-turvy from what we know! We achieve greatness by serving others? Why is this so hard? What kind of heart-transformation does it require?*

**October 27, 2024** (Proper 25, Year B)

**Mark 10:51–**Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

*The blind man articulates the faithful prayer of all steward-disciples. We want to see! Help us see the world around us through eyes of God’s love and mercy.*

**October 2024 newsletter article** (245 words)

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Celebrate the miracle of harvest

October is the traditional harvest month for the Northern Hemisphere. We delight that summer produce is still available even as the fall crops are arriving fresh from the farms. It’s truly a miracle – one that we too often take for granted, just as we take our food supply for granted.

This fall, spend some time pondering and celebrating the wonder of the harvest and the creative forces that God put in place to make our abundant food supply possible. While celebrating harvest, learn about threats and concerns facing farmers in our age of climate change. Celebrating and learning are appropriate tasks we take on as stewards of our earth and humanity’s food supply.

We rightly honor the farmers who diligently plant, cultivate and harvest our fruits and vegetables, but we remember that they don’t create the plant life that bears produce. No, it’s God who creates all life. Farmers do the important work of optimizing their growth by ensuring the good soil, water and nutrients that plants need, but God is the miracle maker.

We can also think of the miracle of seasons that provide the rhythm for spring’s seedtime, summer’s flourishing, fall’s harvest and winter’s rest. Seasons, of course, were created by God, who tilted the earth 23.5 degrees in its orbit around the sun.

This fall, as you enjoy fresh produce from your local farm stand or supermarket, meditate on the miracle of plants, seasons, harvest, and abundant food. Work to help ensure the supply of delicious, nutritious food for generations to come.

*--Robert 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. ([www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org))

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

[**Center for Stewardship Leaders**](http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/) – Luther Seminary’s excellent website. ([faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/](http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/))

[**The ELCA Foundation**](https://www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation) a ministry of our denomination. ([www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation](http://www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation))

[The Episcopal Ministry for Stewardship](https://www.tens.org/) – Lots of good material. (<https://www.tens.org/>)

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