



This month we are beginning a new feature in our monthly newsletter articles: “The Stewardship Corner.” The Stewardship Corner will feature a monthly article written by LCMS Stewardship Ministry that will help us learn what it means to be a Christian steward.

Stewardship refers to every aspect of our life. Every human being is created a steward. A steward is someone entrusted with the care and responsible use of another’s property. The Bible tells us that in the beginning God entrusted man and woman with the governance/stewardship of His creation. “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion (*i.e., stewardship*) over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on earth.” (Genesis 1:28) As stewards of creation, we as human beings are called to love creation, care for it, and to enjoy it responsibly in accordance with God’s Word. Since God is the creator of all things, He is properly the Lord of creation. Creation belongs wholly to God. Out of love God shares this creation with us. Yet because this creation belongs to God, we are not permitted to do whatever we would like with it (oftentimes this leads to destruction and suffering). Rather we are called to respect and manage what the Lord has given us (including our own lives), for everything comes from His hand. “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Christians are entrusted with another kind of stewardship as well. They are given the stewardship of the Gospel, the promise of salvation (see Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus teaches us about this stewardship in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The Lord has entrusted His Church with the promise of salvation, a promise that has the power to save those who believe it (Romans 1:16). We are good stewards of the Gospel when we support the ministry of the Christian Church (including our local congregation). It is in the Church that God has established the public preaching and teaching of the Gospel (*i.e., the pastoral office*) for the building up of God’s people in faith toward Him and love toward one another (Ephesians 4:11-13). Good stewardship of the Gospel, then, for the Christian includes using their time, talents, and treasures to support the local church and ministry to which God has called them. It also includes actually using the gifts of God regularly and responsibly (being attentive to God’s Word in Scripture and preaching and receiving the Sacraments) for the building up and maintenance of our faith (Hebrews 10:25).

Stewardship of the Gospel also extends to our personal lives. Only those called to the pastoral office through the Christian Church are to preach and teach the Gospel publicly in the assembly of God’s saints (as St. Paul entrusts to pastors in Acts 20:28 and 2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Nonetheless, *every* Christian is called to be a witness to the Gospel in their personal lives. For this reason, St. Peter commands the Christians in Asia Minor to be prepared to give a reason for the hope they have within them (1 Peter 3:15). Every moment in our life presents an opportunity for sharing the Gospel. Maybe an act of kindness will open a door for sharing our faith? Maybe a friend or family member going through a difficult time presents an opportunity to share the love of God in Christ Jesus? Whatever the circumstance, you are a Christian, and as a Christian, the Lord is with you and working through you to bring His Gospel to all people in order that all might believe and be saved. After all, He is the vine and you are His branches (John 15:5). How is the Lord bugging you?

Pastor Blake

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BIBLE STUDIES

BIBLE STUDIES are being held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran as we study the lectionary readings from the previous Sunday. St. Thomas holds their bible studies on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. There are no bible studies on the 2nd week of the month as Pastor is at meetings that week. We would love to see you!

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FAT TUESDAY

We will be celebrating Fat Tuesday on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. with a dessert buffet. Please bring your favorite dessert to our Mardi Gras celebration. See sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up for your dessert.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. Join us for this joint service with Christ Lutheran on this special day to begin the Lenten season.

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LENTEN SERVICES

We will be hosting the Lenten services with Soup Supper at 6:00 and Worship at 7:00 on Wednesdays March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to bring soup, bread and other items for our joint suppers and worship.

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – February 2025

“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (*LSB 788*)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB 788*). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kathy Braeshear	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Richard
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Grace Rohaley	Patty Abramovich
Allan	Isabella Andrews	Ray Bishop	Brian
Carl	Chris	Russ & Lana Carnes	Dan
Danny	Debbie	Denise	Sarah Dorris Earle
Yorum Fierenstein	Bill Foster	Gary	Walter Glatz
Daniel Gump and wife	Dwight Hask	Anita Hlava	Kenny Hanson
John Henry	Judith Jeanblanc	Jerry	Jill
Jim	Jim	John	John
John	John Zema	Paul Kaiser	Kathy
Kenny	Kevin	Larry Kraus	Laura
Logan	McGowan family	Dan Meenach	Kyle Moisiso
Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely	Patriots family	Patti
Kathy Robicheau	Roger Smith	Susan	Tina
Brenda Ward	Bennie Wegener	Greg Werner	Mary Whittaker

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

The world/USA—racism and lack of love outside of God’s words

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims COVID virus patients

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees

The power of prayer is so miraculous that we would love to hear good news about someone on this list! Please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Carole Poston 12790 Chamberlain Aurora, OH 44202	Lorene Kozar 8460 Westport Dr. #225 Mentor, Oh 44060
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just



Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
23-Marla Manijak

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OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. Mark on your envelopes “Lutheran Mission Ministry”.

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex.

Your **January-March** Portal of Prayers are here. You can find them on the stand by the door.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava-president, Del Groff-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary, Guy Jeanblanc, Gilbert Ayers and Stephanie Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

If you haven't sent back your Stewardship form yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please pick up your new envelopes today. They are in the narthex on the table. Please put your name on the first envelope so Deb can put a name to a number.

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The 2025 budget was approved at our congregational meeting on Oct. 6. Our new weekly need is \$1,306.73. Please help us meet this goal through your stewardship giving. Thank you!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of December 2024

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	9015.35	99459.44	55253.36
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	10758.17	79854.51	64227.52
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(1742.82)	19604.93	(8974.16)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	1086.00	7492.50	3465.42
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	657.52	359.63
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1086.00	6834.98	3105.79
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1803.07	1912.68	1062.56
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1306.73</u>		

Special Funds Include:

Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence



**P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER

Office: 330-626-4945

Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.