

## ***What is Stewardship?***

***A proposed starting place by Deacon Timothy Siburg***



Stewardship starts with an understanding that all that we have, and all that we are, is God's!

(Psalm 24:1-3)

- What we have, has been entrusted to our care by God to use, manage, and/or steward.
- This includes:
  - Our lives, health, bodies, souls, minds, hearts, stories
  - Our time, ideas, dreams, questions
  - Our talents, gifts, strengths, passions, vocations
  - Our treasures, money, finances, assets
  - Creation and all that it consists of
- Stewardship is part of our identity as a Child of God who has been called, created, and is loved by God (Genesis 1:27-28)

Stewardship is part of what it means to live a life of faith and growth as a disciple.

- We grow in our faith by telling stories of faith, and sharing all that God has done and continues to do, for us.
- We are so moved by all that God has done and continues to do, that we can't help but be so overjoyed we want to share in that good work.
- Our response to God's gifts and promises is our stewardship.

Why do we give?

- Because God tells and calls us to return a portion of what is God's to God.
- Because God chooses to use us to build up God's kingdom and do God's work in and through us.
- Because of all that God has done, continues to do, and promises to do for us.
- The work of ministry is done through community and in partnership together. Each person is called, equipped, and empowered to share in the joy and challenges of what this means. (Acts 2:42-47, for example)

What might be the goal of stewardship ministry?

- "To help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them." – Chick Lane, *Ask Thank Tell*, (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), 11.

*Compiled by Deacon Timothy Siburg for the congregations of the Nebraska Synod.*

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