



Tradewinds

The newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church
Called by Christ + Gathered in Grace + Joyfully Serving
108 S. Robeson Street, Robesonia, PA 19551
NOVEMBER ~ 2018

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Linda Holt

Parish Planning Council

Anne Burd – Executive Director
John Fraunfelter – Human Resources
Denny & Louise Bowers - Fellowship
Vera Cervellero & Jim Dotzenroth -
Evangelism
Linda Purdin – Social Ministry
Steve Bobick – Lay Ministry
Lorna Fraunfelter - Stewardship
Mike McGuire - Property
Sally Krick - Christian Education
Walt Muir - Finance
Teri Rothenberger - Worship & Music
Josh Mountz – Youth

Saturday - 5:00pm – Informal Service with Holy Communion
Sunday - 8:00am – Traditional Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School for all ages at 9:15am
Sunday – 10:45am – Traditional Service with Holy Communion
Children's Sermon & Nursery provided at 10:45am.
The Well – Wednesday Night - Meal, Activity/Service, Worship 6-8:00pm

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to share three things I recently read:

First, in his book, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life*, Mark Allen Powell defines stewardship as "giving 100 percent to God." He says Christians don't always understand this for two reasons: "First, churches often use the phrase 'giving to God' in a way that is synonymous with 'giving to the church.'" The underlying idea, he presumes, is that the church acts as God's agent in accepting our gifts and putting them to use in the ways God desires. "That may be true," he says, "but the concepts of giving to God and giving to the church should not be simply equated. There are many ways of giving our money to God, and giving to the church is only one of these. As long as we think that 'giving to God' and 'giving to the church' are the same thing, the concept of 100 percent stewardship will be lost on us"

Powell continues, "Neither tithing nor percentage giving were ever meant to serve as a substitute for the expectation that all of our money will be used in God-pleasing ways. The point has never been that tithers should give 10 percent of their money to the church and then use the rest however they please."

Second, Brian Stoffregen, a Lutheran pastor wrote, "Usually if churches are talking about money, it's because they don't have enough of it. Often when people talk about money, it's because they would like to have more of it. That's the opposite of why the Bible usually talks about money. When the Bible talks about money, it's usually because somebody has or wants too much of it."

Third, a newly married man asked his wife, "Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?" "Honey," the woman replied sweetly, "I'd have married you no matter who left you a fortune."

Our stewardship weekend is quickly approaching on November 17th and 18th. I pray we will see that all that we possess has been gifted to us by God. I pray that we see that all of our giving is to be pleasing to God...time, talent, and treasure. I pray that we will help our children and grandchildren understand why we give, how we give, and most of all, what we have first been given - salvation through Jesus Christ. And I pray that you know you have been given a fortune by Jesus...eternal life. See you in worship. May God continue to bless you always in all ways!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Bill