

**S**ince we were unable to find a guest preacher for our Consecration Sunday this year, I thought you still might enjoy "hearing" the stewardship perspective of a different voice besides mine. So, to that end, I am sharing below (with very few adaptations) an excellent article, written by The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, who is the LCMS South Wisconsin District president and former stewardship specialist for LCMS Stewardship Ministry (who also happens to be my friend and seminary classmate). His article is titled *Stewardship Essentials: Discipline*.

What is the difference between an athlete and a champion? What is the distinction between one who competes in business or academics and the one who achieves at the highest levels? Certainly, no athlete becomes a champion or the greatest of all time (GOAT) without talent. No student or business leader achieves their loftiest goals without opportunity. There is a line of demarcation between the elite and those who simply compete. It is discipline.

It is discipline that leads the champion golfer to pound thousands of range balls a month. It is discipline that led the hall of fame hitters to take swing after swing in the batting cage. It is discipline that leads the virtuoso to practice his/her instrument hours on end. Discipline is the necessary effort that makes excellence possible.

But, for most people, discipline is not any fun. It is tedious. It is boring. It requires a repeated effort, which is the cause of sweat, aches and sometimes even tears. Discipline is not pleasant. But it is necessary to move beyond average into the territory of extraordinary.

Those with a history in team sports know that coaches need to set the culture of discipline. When the team is not coached in the disciplines of detail and effort, the team's performance will suffer. The blessings of talent may go a long way, but there will always come a point where discipline and lack of diligence will lead to errors,

breakdowns and defeat.

But the coach can only do so much. In individual sports, the athlete must provide a drive for discipline. Teams can only rise as far as the culture of discipline that the players are willing to participate in. No amount of coaching can overcome a lack of discipline.

**The discipline of stewardship** - Faithful teaching and practice of stewardship within the local congregation also requires consistent discipline.



## People With A Purpose

Congregations that wish to cultivate faithful stewardship need to commit to the regular discipline of teaching and preaching stewardship. This preaching and teaching of stewardship needs to be more than a three-week sermon series that is the forerunner of the first draft of the budget.

Stewardship discipline means that stewardship of all of life and life's resources is regularly taught when the assigned Scripture Readings call for it. There needs to be regular, year-round opportunities for the individual stewards to be encouraged to put in the arduous work of serving, caring, studying and giving of themselves for the glory of God and for the benefit of their neighbor.

Stewardship discipline should include an annual, intentional commitment process. These commitments are faithfully made when properly framed. Commitments respond to the two main stewardship questions for each believer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

This discipline of the individual for the sake of the whole is essential. Both individual and congregational stewardship is ultimately stewardship of the Gospel!

**The fruits of discipline: repentance and faithfulness** - Discipline is required because faithful stewardship goes against our sinful human nature. Human beings are not content to be managed by anyone, including God. We

have the desire to own, possess and control.

But at its root, this is idolatry. Idolatry is a sin which challenges us all. We think that our money is ours. We think that our skills are ours. We think that our time is ours. But none of that is true. It all belongs to the Lord.

The discipline of God's Law calls us to repentance and leads us back to being stewards, rather than owners. While not pleasant, it is essential if we are to be the stewards that the Lord has created and redeemed us to be. The repetitive, consistent call to repentance and new life can be tedious and painful. But it is what makes us stewards!

In fact, it is through this strengthening discipline that God lovingly calls us away from ourselves and back into His loving embrace so that we can most fully, effectively and joyfully serve Him and others

according to the Mission He has given us here at Mt. Calvary as *His People With A Purpose*.

Thank you all so much for plugging into our *People With A Purpose* journey this year. If you have not yet been able to fill out a pledge card, prayerfully consider doing so to support us all in *Sharing God's Word and Serving All*.

In the joy-filled stewardship of Jesus,

*Pastor Keith Best*

PS: Thank you to our Stewardship Board Chairperson, Elizabeth D. for bringing this article to my attention.

 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,  not reluctantly or  under compulsion,  
**for GOD loves a cheerful giver.**"  
2 Corinthians 9:7

## Board of Human Care

For the past three weeks we have been learning about what it means to be a good steward. A good way to be able to do this, is to check the "Know Your Neighbor" and the "Ways to Serve" boards (across from the kitchen) to see where you might be able to use your time and talents. Joining the prayer team is an easy way to serve and know your neighbor. You would only need to receive a request and pray! If this is something you'd like to do, the contact information is in the church directory.

We are a small group and could use more members. Please consider if this might be your way to be a good steward.

Looking forward to serving alongside you this year,  
Board of Human Care,  
Jan Hagen, Cathy Newell, and Christina Kraemer



## Board of Spiritual Outreach

We continue to collect milk bottle lids from the Longmont Dairy and prescription bottle caps. The Methodist Church is impressed at how dedicated we are to helping support the Miracle House with the collection of the medicine caps. Please remember they should only be from Dale's, or not have a pharmacy name.



We now have welcome folders available for guests in one of the church mailboxes. If the ushers see a visitor, please hand them one. It has information about Mt. Calvary and a magnet with our address, phone and email so they can contact us.

Thank you to all those who have helped and supported us this past year. We are reaching out to our members and the surrounding communities.

To God be all the glory! Mary Ann Merritt



### Are you willing to provide Coffee & Snacks one time?

We all enjoy snacks when they are there, but when people don't sign up, there are none. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to host Coffee & Snacks. We do ask that you stay and clean up afterwards. There is also a list of set up/clean-up details for your convenience. Remember—we have a dishwasher!

**Thank you for signing up!** And thank you to those who have already been stepping in!



## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

**It's easy for us to find things to gripe about, but God's blessings abound!**

- † The Stewardship Board and all their hardwork for *People With A Purpose*.
- † The men in our congregation who lead us and serve God.
- † That the US President & VP spoke at the March for Life on Jan. 23 to show support for the Christian value of life from conception to natural death.
- † House Speaker Mike Johnson who advocates for the March for Life explaining he was an unplanned pregnancy of teen parents and representatives in Congress fighting for pro-life bills and support for pregnancy resource centers.
- † Those who fill the large drinking water bottles in the kitchen.
- † The “church mice” who wash the church towels and linens.
- † Our members who willingly follow the godly “discipline” of prayerfully pledging a portion of their income to support God’s mission at MCLC.
- † Our musicians (organists, choir, instrumentalists) who enhance our worship.
- † Doctors, Nurses and other healthcare workers who help us address and manage our illnesses and issues.
- † The privilege God gives us to share His gift of salvation with others.

*Count Your Blessings*



ASH Wednesday is

**February 18th.**

Worship is at 7pm.



The following Wednesday, **February 25th** will be our 1st Lenten dinner, followed by a hymn sing and Worship service.



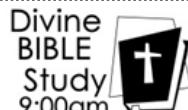
Have you noticed our new information screen above the couch in the fellowship hall? Keep an eye out for reminders and or information on upcoming events. Also, if you have any feedback about the graphics, please speak to Tracy T., she would appreciate your input.



Our congregation provides Portals of Prayer devotion books, as well as the Lutheran Witness magazine to all members free of charge! If you are not receiving these, please let Tracy know so we can get that corrected.

**Divine Bible Study is changing** their meeting days to the second and fourth

**Tuesdays** at 9am starting February 10<sup>th</sup>. We welcome anyone for whom this is more convenient.





Please remember that we cannot be a Youth Group without YOU!  
All school age kids are welcome:

Currently we have at least 10 kids in Middle and High School that need both leadership and guidance. Scott Heusinkveld continues to teach them God's Word every Sunday, but what else are we doing to encourage them to continue coming to church? As a youth, I remember Scott and myself having lock-ins, group fellowship and activities with other churches, at least monthly. I know that was a big influence on my staying connected to the church. Unfortunately, we need Adults to plan everything. Presently there are only 2 Youth Board members (one—a very busy parent). Please prayerfully consider joining them in planning activities and meeting!

Yours In Christ's Service, Tracy Tiscareño

### The Board of Education

met at the January leadership meeting and received a number of ideas to implement this year for the growth and education of our members/ community. We will meet in the coming weeks as a target group (with the Board of Youth) to decide what activities we will pursue. More information to come! As always, we invite all children to Sunday School each Sunday. Please let Tracy T. or Corinne G. know if you are interested in teaching Sunday school or helping with Vacation Bible School. If you have a passion for music and want to share your favorite Sunday school song with our students, please let us know! We welcome any and all talents! - Corinne Gabel



I urge that SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, and THANKSGIVINGS be made for everyone ...

1 Timothy 2:1, NRSV



### PRAYER TEAM

The beginning of a new year is a good time to review some information about the prayer team. Our prayer team currently has 23 team members.

Our members are listed inside the cover of your church directory. We always need more members and it is an easy way to serve. All you have to do is receive a text, email or call and then pray for that person.

If you wish to request a prayer, here is what we have established as the best way:

1. Call, text or email Jan Hagen at 303-257-7155 or [hagenwj@msn.com](mailto:hagenwj@msn.com)  
Jan is the primary contact as she then notifies the rest of the members. Tracy T. can share requests but it just adds an extra step in getting the request out as she has to forward the information to Jan. She may ask you to call Jan directly.
2. We assume ALL prayer requests are for the prayer team AND Sunday bulletin and are public unless otherwise stated as private and for Prayer Team only.
3. Prayers on Friday must be sent before noon so they will make printing in the bulletin. After noon a message will need to be left on the church voicemail before 8 AM on Sunday if you wish for Pastor to announce it in church. Prayer requests to Jan can be made at any time.

The prayer team is here to help you with your prayers please feel free to contact us at any time. Jan Hagen





### Greetings people loved by God!

For Advent, Pastor used a sermon series he called "The Lord Opens Wombs". Listening to his sermons brought back memories of me and DeDe's struggles early in our marriage. Many of our friends were having children and we wanted children also, but were not able to at the time. We both went to doctors and were told DeDe would have to take some medicine that could help. It didn't. So, the next step was In vitro fertilization (IVF) which could/would implant multiple fertilized eggs. This can be dangerous to the mother if too many begin to grow, so then they have a process that is called "selective reduction". We called it abortion and murder. So, as bad as we wanted children, we were not willing to do that. As many of you know, we adopted our oldest son Dalton.

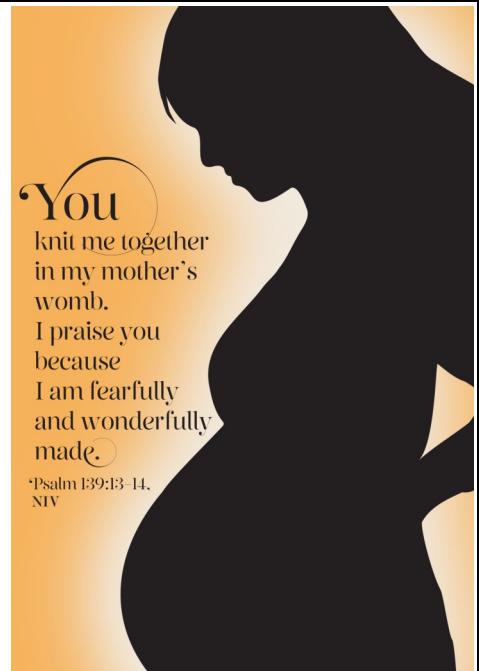
During Advent I also saw a short video with Seth Gruber, who is a leading voice in the Pro Life movement, and he said "Abortion is the sacrament of Satan. It says you must die so I can live, but Christ said I must die so you can live. This is why abortion advocates speak the blasphemous words, "My body my choice." They misapply the words of our Savior at the Last Supper, "This is My body given for you."

I was told many years ago that when the sperm enters the egg, a unique DNA is formed. This tells me that life begins at conception. Then this last Sunday Pastor quoted from Psalm 139:13 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb".

We humans do many foolish things; some have abortions, and all have sinned, but we are forgiven and washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. Let us fight for the unborn men and women alike. And let us pray for and support our sisters in Christ who are unsure or may have had an abortion.

The Epistle for Christmas Eve was taken from Titus 3:4-7 and I think it's a good way to close. "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

- Doug Hiar





## Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #2 – Trustees

**Our Target:** We are good stewards of the property  
God has given us.



In 2025 the trustees put new lighting in the sign on Denver Ave, we also led a church workday and many people came to clean and repair our building.

For 2026 we participated in the Leadership welcome to discuss our goals for the new year. Our focus will be on another church workday this spring, painting and installing new vinyl to our signs, installing a new boiler/ water heater, maybe some painting inside our building and meeting as a board monthly.



Watch for opportunities to serve with us in the coming year.



**PLANET GREEN RECYCLE**  
RAISE FUNDS BY RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES



**Did you know when you recycle ink cartridges and/or make a purchase using our Program ID 20887 at [www.planetgreenrecycle.com](http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com) you're directly supporting our fundraising goals? You can encourage family members and others to use our program ID and together, we can raise funds while helping our planet. We get a check everytime we mail in a box of used ink cartridges and when someone orders ink. There is a collection box on the table near the restrooms.**



**Mt Calvary Online Giving**  
Our church does offer the ability to give online—  
see instructions below



Anyone can use the church website or this QR code and link to access the Mt. Calvary Online Giving Site.

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/mt-calvary-lutheran-church>

You will need your **email address** and banking or credit card information to continue.

**\*\*Also note if your email address is NOT in your church record, this will not work. Check with Tracy - before you begin - if you are not sure.**

1. Go to the site.
2. Enter your email address and click **"Sign-up"**.
3. Search for your email address and if it is in your church record, it will be found and you can continue the set up.
4. **\*If not, stop the process and update your church record with Tracy before trying again.**
5. Next, you will be asked for your giving information.

It's that simple and safe. Please let RyAnna M. know if you need help.