



Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church seek to **wisely manage our time, resources, and abilities because all we have is a gift from God.**

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

Another word for manager is steward. Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Many people may argue that Christian stewardship is more about following laws, rules and instructions than it is about free and joyous activity.

The problem is that because of our sinful natures we are not able to keep all these laws, rules and commandments and are pretty much

left with the options of either trying harder or giving up. Neither of these options leads to a life that is free and joyous.

The Bible contains all kinds of laws, rules, and instructions for our Christian living, but these laws, rules, and instructions are not written for the purpose of saving us. Rather, they drive us to the good news of salvation through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Forgiveness of our sins frees us from past failures and opens up a new way of living. *“Don’t you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” [Romans 6:3-4 NIV]*

Through Christ we are freed from “have to” living to move toward “get to” living. What a refreshing freedom for us to live godly lives, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

Truly, God’s redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

The Apostle John states in his first letter: *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1 NIV)* As the Holy Spirit helps us to grow each day as the children of God, we also grow in our loving and giving, because loving and giving are two important characteristics of our God. Just like children imitate their parents, so we also are to imitate God. God delights in loving and giving. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments give overwhelming evidence of this truth. Jesus taught that *“it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35 NIV)*

Where do you find yourself as it relates to loving and giving? Many Christians experience how true these words of Jesus really are. Where do you find your greater joy? Is it in giving or in receiving? Are you among those people who get more joy and excitement from searching for and finding the right gifts for the special people in their lives? Many Christians really do enjoy giving more than receiving.



Take some time to reflect on the words of Jesus that *“it is more blessed to give than to receive”* and pray for the Holy Spirit’s power to grow in the grace of giving. And may that giving be more than just selecting gifts for those you love. May that giving extend to supporting the work of the Lord through the church as you give generously of your time, abilities, and financial resources to bring the love of Jesus into the lives of others.

Opportunities abound at St. Paul Lutheran to use your gifts. Whether it’s baking or stuffing envelopes, ushering or carpentry, operating a video camera or singing, teaching or playing a musical instrument, you can share that gift at St. Paul. You also have the privilege of financially supporting the various ministries of the congregation through regular contributions.

Our Mission

Our mission is to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ in order to share that faith with others.

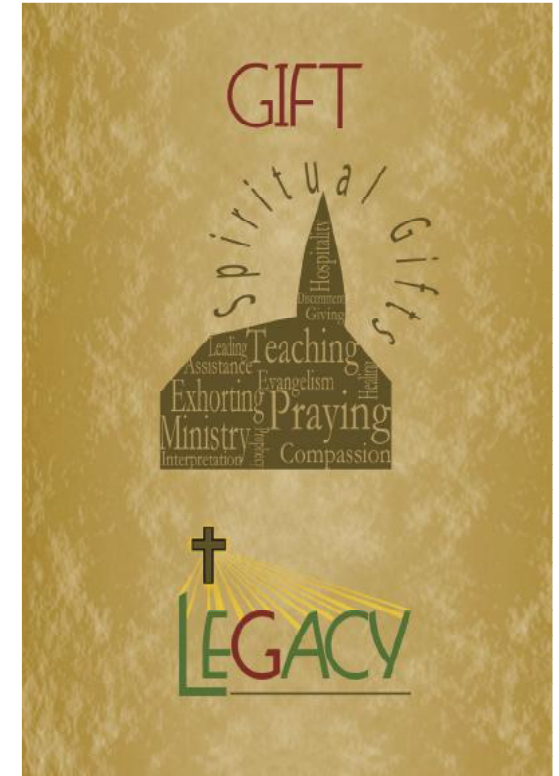
Our Vision

Our vision is to be a people transformed by the Gospel to live out and pass on the legacy of faith in Jesus Christ in our homes, community and world. We will empower and equip people to mentor following generations so that the legacy of faith continues.

Our Strategy

We have a message and a way of life that the whole world needs to hear and experience. We must pass it on. It is our desire that you would experience the love of Jesus Christ and become imitators of him through a process we know as **Learn, Live, Lead**. Our strategy is to be a community where the legacy of faith is **learned** in such a way that people grow to **live** that legacy and **lead** others to become part of that legacy.

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