

Tidings and Treasures - September, 2021

Dear PVEC Community:

Are You Living Every Moment with Awareness of God's Abundant Generosity?

As the Pandemic winds down, PVEC's doors are open for in-person worship! Pew cushions are now in place, and our Bibles are back in their rightful holders. Masks are required (as singing is now happening). We gather in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday to worship him as we teach children in our Sunday school.

Get out your bible and read Psalm 100. Verse 4: **Enter his gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Stewardship Season is here! What's your Stewardship Journey? Think about your own stewardship journey and how it has influenced your personal journey of faith. Here's some ideas to explore from the Old Testament:

1. Write a personal stewardship statement after reading 2 Kings 4:1-7. Do you pray to God to ask him for help living your life to the fullest? Elisha and "the widow" did, and through faith, the Lord blessed her and her family with much prosperity. (Paraphrased)

2. How do you strive to be the faithful, loving, generous steward God created you to be? *"He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who cares for his master will be honored."* Proverbs 27:18 (TEV)

3. Read Deuteronomy 8:17 – It reminds us: *"You must never think you've made yourselves wealthy by your own power and strength. Remember it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to become rich. He does this because he is still faithful today to the covenant that he made with your ancestors."* (TEV)

New Testament: Jesus our Lord and Savior had this to say about stewardship (and it's hard to ignore!):

1. "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor and you will have riches in heaven." Matthew 19:21 (TEV)

2. Luke 6:38 - Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands all that you can hold. **The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.** (TEV)

3. Acts 20:35 – Paul says, "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the works of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."** ((NRSV)

As a final thought - What would you say to others as an invitation for them to join you in worship – remember that your witness is precious in the sight of God – just as you are!

Here is a way of giving to the church and save income tax. If you are 70 ½ or older you can call your broker and ask them to send a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to you with a check payable to Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. In this way, you get to pay your pledge and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRAs; thus saving yourself from paying federal income tax on the money! (I do this quarterly). The one rule is that you need to have the church cash the check before 12/31, so don't delay! Our website www.PantherValleyChurch.org under the WAYS TO GIVE tab explains several ways in which you can financially support our ministries. You too, can be the hands and feet of Jesus - We will do great things for others in need with your money!

A Joke for a New Stewardship Idea:



Next month (October), you will be receiving your pledge card for 2022. We will enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to enable you to return it easily. Keep in mind that your financial pledge to the church will enable us to plan for next years' programs; including outreach to our members, local community and the world in which we live. Be optimistic, God is with you! And of course we realize your pledge is fluid, and can be adjusted at any time during the year.

My Stewardship Prayer for all of us:

Eternal God, we pray that by your grace we will make stewardship a way of life. You are the source of all we have and all that we are. Help us to place you, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things. Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action. Help us to generously share the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. Help us Lord to serve our church, our community, and our world with the gifts you have given us. Teach us how to give with a joyful spirit, with love, and with hope. Amen.

Blessings, Donna Weinberg