**Your Stewardship Toolkit for January 2023!**

*January’s theme:* **New Year’s resolutions to steward your life**

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Good, thoughtful, consistent communication, education and action will help your congregation develop a healthy culture of stewardship and generosity. This kit is designed to help get you there!

You can use the resources of this kit by themselves to educate and encourage stewardship, but they would be more effective as a monthly emphasis that lifted up a different aspect of stewardship. You could plan bible studies, temple talks, a preaching series, and other activities.

Here’s what you’ll find below:

**-Stewardship Snippets:** Put a “Stewardship Snippet” every week in your Sunday bulletin! It’s a quote from the week’s Revised Common Lectionary lessons, followed by a brief reflection. Just cut and paste!

**-Newsletter Article:** Publish something in your newsletter every month on stewardship and faith or post it on your website. Keep your people thinking about stewardship. Just cut and paste!

**-General Resource Websites:** – These are places you can go for inspiration and great ideas!

**Stewardship Snippets**

*Copy and paste into your bulletin!  
Source: Rob Blezard*

**January 1, 2023** (First Sunday after Christmas, Year A)  
**Matthew 2:13** –Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

*How soon after the joy of Christmas comes this story of terror and grief. Thankfully, Joseph pays attention and changes the family’s plans accordingly. May we, like Joseph, listen for God as we steward the good news of Jesus in new ways and different directions.*

**January 6, 2023** (Epiphany of the Lord, Year A)

**Isaiah 60:1** – Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

*How about taping this verse to your bathroom mirror as a reminder of the very good news of Jesus that is for you and for all people? Start the day right by spending time with Jesus in prayer, study, and presence. Let the light of Christ guide you to greater stewardship of all aspects of your life.*

**January 8, 2023** (Baptism of the Lord, Year A)

**Matthew 3:16-17** – And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him … and a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

*Listen! Can you hear the whispering voice of God saying, “You are my child, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased”? In baptism you have been named and claimed as God’s own child. Steward this gift as you grow in faith and action in 2023.*

**January 15, 2023** (Second Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A)

**1 Corinthians 1:9** – God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Just like those first disciples whom Jesus told to “Come and see,” you have been called into the Body of Christ, and God is working in your life even if you don’t realize it. Pay attention and steward God’s wonderful gifts carefully and fully.*

**January 22, 2023** (Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A)

**Matthew 4:19** – And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

*Listen! Can you hear Jesus calling you to deeper discipleship? Don’t worry; you will be equipped to steward God’s amazing gifts, even as you cast your net of faith and share the good news.*

**January 29, 2023** (Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A)

**Matthew 5:9** –Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

*Stewarding a heart of love helps us to live out Jesus’ teaching in the Beatitudes. As children of God we strive for peace, justice, and dignity for all God’s beloved creation. In Christ, we are called to love.*

**January 2023 Newsletter article** (225 words)

*Select the one below, or from the* [*Toolkit Newsletter Article Archive*](https://thestewardshipguy.com/newsletter-articles/)*.*

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**New Year’s resolutions to steward your life**

Have any resolutions for 2023? (It’s not too late to make them!) New Year’s resolutions are a great way to boost the stewardship of your life. After all, resolutions are just goals for enriching our lives.

Here are some areas to consider:

**Spirituality:** Grow in faith by engaging spiritual practices. Resolve to pray and read scripture daily, attend worship, give generously, cultivate spiritual relationships, serve church and community.

**Health:** Gain vitality by resolving to lose weight, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, learn about health and nutrition and get checkups at your doctor and dentist.

**Intellect:** Keep your mind active by resolving to read books, check out educational programs and podcasts, take a class to learn a new language or skill.

**Relationships:** Resolve to make new friendships and deepen existing ones. Work on family relationships to strengthen bonds and bring people closer to you and other family members.

**Leisure:** Include resolutions to help you enjoy life! Vacations, hobbies, activities, getaways, day trips.

**Financial:** Get your financial house in order. Resolve to make and keep a budget, reduce debt, increase income, save more and become more learned in money matters.

We are stewards of the life that God has given us. For 2023, pray for God’s guidance and make a few resolutions that address your priority issues. And pray for God’s help in keeping them. Blessings for 2023!

*--Rob Blezard*

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[*Click here*](https://thestewardshipguy.com/about-me/) *for a complete and up-to-date bio for Pastor Blezard.*

**General Stewardship Resource Websites**

[**Stewardship of Life Institute**](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org/)– Headquartered at United Lutheran Seminary, this site has a trove of resources in areas of congregational and personal stewardship. ([www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org))

[**ELCA Stewardship Resources**](http://elca.org/stewardship)– Our denomination’s deep well of materials. ([www.elca.org/stewardship](http://www.elca.org/stewardship))

[**The Episcopal Network for Stewardship**](https://www.tens.org/) – Solid resources! ([www.tens.org/](http://www.tens.org/)).

[**Center for Stewardship Leaders**](http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/) – Luther Seminary’s excellent website. ([faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/](http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship/))

[**The ELCA Foundation**](https://www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation) a ministry of our denomination. ([www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation](http://www.elca.org/give/elca-foundation))

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