

# Stewardship Thoughts

This month our stewardship thoughts will focus on the “Thank you” of stewardship. Huh? Some of you may voice that sentiment as that approach hasn’t been encountered or emphasized in many congregations.

When stewardship is presented from position of the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, the focus shifts from the asking to the thanking. Let’s examine Romans 12:1, where Paul write *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* The mercies of God are the source and focal point of our worship we offer to God. First we receive, the mercies. Then, and only then, can we give anything in response. See the “thank you?” The more we highlight the mercies of God to the ones who were created by Him, baptized into Christ as receivers of those mercies, the more likely we are to see hearts that are no longer conformed to this world, but transformed in such a way that God can use us for the building up the kingdom.

Stewardship taught in the local congregation from a “thank you” perspective has to connect the individual to a pattern of thanksgiving with all of their life and life’s resources. Stewardship presented from a position of obligation brings negative results. The Holy Spirit will produce results in the hearts of those who embrace thanksgiving to God as thank you rather than obligation.

Pastors and stewardship leaders need to live their lives as thankful stewards of all of God’s resources. When this is done, others in the congregation will notice and “thank you” stewardship will bloom.

Another way to adapt to the concept of “thank you” stewardship is to practice it. Say “thank you”. Don’t blow it off by saying “ya, thanks”. Actually take and make the effort of saying, “thank you”. You will be amazed how uplifting those two words are.

We can model “thank you” stewardship in the congregation by including a thank you in the quarterly financial statements, or send a “thank you” to those who serve the congregation or have served the congregation. The concept of thank you always points back to the ultimate giver, God Himself.



**Retro Sunday  
Service  
August 14,  
2016**

# *Who are you?*



## **Secret Pal Reveal Night**

**Monday, September 12th**

**6:00pm**

Come enjoy an evening of comradery and fun with some great refreshments. Find out who your secret pal was this past year. We will pick names for the upcoming year.

Please sign up in the Narthex.....

1- if you can make it that evening

2- if you can't make it, but want to be included for the next round of secret pals.

3 - if you have never joined and would like to, there is an introduction sheet to pick up. New people are always welcome, high school and older.

If you aren't able to make it please let your secret pal know who you are or tell Lynn. Thanks!

## **LWML Fall Rally**

(Zone #1 of North Wisconsin District)

**Saturday, 17, 2016**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Marengo, Wisconsin**

All women of the church are encouraged to attend. *There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Meet in the church parking lot to share a ride. Any questions you can contact Maria at 715-682-9508.*

