

Stewardship Moment

June 17, 2012

Lay readers: Karen Georgis (8:30 am) and Sandy Nesselrode (11:00 am)

The Psalmist wrote, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.” God made all things. God owns all things. God is the Proprietor.

God lovingly and caringly rules over His creation. He gives His blessings for our needs, for our use, for our enjoyment and to do good to others. He is the giver of all good and perfect gifts.

God also has given us great freedom in the use of His blessings. We have been freed from the law. St. Paul, in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Galatians, wrote, “But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Christ came into the world to save the world. He kept the law perfectly in the place of everyone. He took our punishment upon Himself, suffering and dying in our place. We are no longer slaves of the law. On account of Christ and by the work of the Holy Spirit, we are freed to be who we really are. We are God’s sons and daughters.

Now, in the freedom Christ has given and as God’s sons and daughters, we lead a God-pleasing life. This includes the use of the blessings God has given us. We place the proper priorities on the use of the possessions, wealth and money God has given.

By grace, for Christ’s sake, we are God’s people. Through Word and Sacrament the Spirit nourishes and strengthens us in faith and life. As God’s people, we live lives of good works. This includes the use of our money to glorify God and to serve our neighbor. By the power of the Gospel, we are able to do this freely, generously and joyfully.