

Stewardship May 2006

Stewardship Ministry Message

In April, the St. Andrew's Stewardship Ministry Team celebrated its first year of existence. Much has happened in that one year. For example, the stewardship theme developed by the team, "Raise Anchor, Set Sail," became a theme for the whole church. Total pledges and the number of people pledging increased even in this year of transition. And we began to talk about how stewardship can infuse all aspects of our life together as God's people. We've already begun work on the 2006-2007 stewardship focus.

One of the very exciting things about serving on this team is the monthly conversation we have about stewardship. We have shared personal stories of stewardship and considered the biblical and theological foundations that support our life as God's stewards. From these discussions has emerged a statement developed by one of our team members, Jim Jenson. It is called "A Steward's Declaration." Though it is a work in progress, I want to share just the opening paragraph from the statement:

As a Christian I believe that the earth, the heavens and all that is, seen and unseen, is the Lord's. Along with the Christian community and other communities, I am called to be a steward of all of God's resources. I further believe that my physical life, my new life in Christ, and my only hope for the future come from God.

The "Declaration" then provides eight statements that define what it means to be a steward in God's kingdom. You will see the full statement soon.

Read the Statement's opening paragraph again and discover the depth of its meaning. Everything we have and everything we are come from God. We are caretakers of the riches that God has so richly showered on us. And we are called to do more than guard what we have been given; we are called to share, to return to God what God has first given to us. We pray that God's Spirit will unlock the door to the storehouse of riches that have been given to community of people who are drawn together under the name of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. May the open doors release a flood of generosity – time, talents, and treasures – given freely and without reservation so that the entire world will see that we trust in an abundant God.