



11/04/2024

“Equipping Stewards for the Life of Faith”  
*GATHERED AND SCATTERED*

Dear Members and Friends,

We bring you grace, peace, and love in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As stewards we have been Equipped for a Purpose. By God’s grace, we are given life, and that same grace which makes life possible equips us to live fruitful and productive lives. Grace motivates us to be loving, serving, and giving people. Growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus through Word and Sacrament, we are transformed more and more into his likeness, and we can look forward to hearing, “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

Oct. 20 – Equipped for a Purpose

Oct. 27 – Equipped to Serve

Nov. 10 – Equipped to Give

Nov. 17 – Equipped to Witness (Commitment Sunday)

During these four weeks, we have learned and will be learning how God wants to use us as channels of love, grace and mercy. As instruments of grace, we become God’s hands, feet, and mouth. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can be the faithful people God has called us to be, making God’s love real. *“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy”* (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are equipped to manage what God entrusts to us faithfully. God lovingly grants most of us families, friends, church, work, and material blessings, and, most important, the Gospel. We demonstrate our faithfulness and trustworthiness by sharing the Gospel with those near and far.

Enclosed you will find a Time and Talent Form based on our baptismal promises for the Life of Faith. At Bethlehem we have a full understanding of Stewardship, that it is about how we give and care for, not just our money, but also the Time God has given us, the Talents we have been given. To fulfill God’s purposes, we will use these Time and Talent forms in the coming year to assign volunteers in various roles in worship, caring for each other, caring for our community, and reaching out with the Gospel – gathered and scattered.

Enclosed you will also find your 2025 Commitment Form. Please, *after prayerful discernment*, complete it and return the BOTTOM (signed) portion to the church in the envelope provided or in person on Commitment Sunday, November 17, **EVEN IF YOU GIVE ELECTRONICALLY** and are planning to continue to give at your present level, and keep the bottom portion for a record of your commitment in 2025.

May God bless your faithful stewardship of all that God entrusts to you in your Life of Faith.

Serving Christ together,

Laurey K. Wyble  
Stewardship and Finance, Chair

Pastor Matthew A. Smith



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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