

# Generous Living

June 2011



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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“Whole Life” Stewardship = Generous Sharing =

# Generous Living!

*Written by Karen Odegard*



*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; – Psalm 24:1*

Stewardship is demonstrated in the ways we individually and collectively live our lives in gratitude for our abundant blessings, knowing that what we have been given to use belongs to God.

Jesus said, “...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Abundant life is experienced when we seek to bring glory to God in all that we do!

Whole life stewardship is recognizing that every aspect of our lives comes from God. We are each responsible to care for our lives and for this world.

**Our bodies** and minds are affected by what we put into our mouths and what we allow to influence our minds. We need to fuel our bodies with nutritious foods and healthy beverages, as well as have patterns of regular sleep and exercise.

Life has changed considerably in the past 100 years. The processing of food has led to additives that our bodies weren't meant to consume. As a result of the more hectic lifestyle today, our minds are constantly being stressed. Research shows that people born after WWII are ten times more likely to be depressed than those born before that. We must proactively care for our bodies and minds.

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**Our spiritual lives** need nurturing as well. As we regularly pray and meditate, worship and read/study the Bible, we draw closer to God and become more attuned to God’s presence and purpose. When we look for God in everyday activities and encounters with other people, we begin to recognize little miracles. This brings us hope for the future and prepares us to share with others how God is active in our lives.

**Our relationships with other people** don’t grow by accident. As we deliberately invest in the lives of others one-to-one or in small groups, listening and sharing about what is important to each other, relationships deepen and a community of serving, supporting and caring develops.

God gives each of us different **talents and spiritual gifts**. When we use and share them, they increase and bring blessings to others. This is true whether we are paid or are volunteering. Each of us has the same number

of hours every day. There are numerous possibilities vying for our time. It is easy for precious minutes to slip away unless we are deliberate about the way we invest our time. There are multiple ways to honor God by helping people in our homes, our community and through our church. It might be serving people in need or mentoring a child or younger adult. Whatever it is, serve enthusiastically remembering that you are the hands and heart of Jesus as you help others.

Our abundant God provides for our needs. We have the responsibility to share, save and spend wisely the financial resources that God gives.

God created our world and all that is in it and put people (us) in charge of caring for it. We must be deliberate about caring for it, using the resources responsibly and restoring what needs repair.



From the  
desktop of  
**Pastor Jeff**

Dear Friends,

This has been a remarkable year for generosity at Prince of Peace. Our *No Debt! Know Mission!* Capital Campaign was launched just 13 short months ago with a goal to eliminate our indebtedness of \$4.45 million. This month we will break the \$3 million mark on debt – reducing our mortgage to **\$2,995,000** as of June 15. This is nothing short of incredible! The success of this Campaign is a critical pathway to our future – at the end of the Campaign freeing up the interest savings to be used for mission and ministry.

At the same time that we are celebrating the success of our Capital Campaign, we have been struggling with our general operating revenue. An exceptionally harsh winter impacted our offerings by nearly \$200,000 by the end of January. And yet many people stepped up this spring with an additional contribution, increased their ongoing giving, or enrolled in automatic giving options. And this has made a significant difference as we are coming to the end of our fiscal year on June 30. Between your increased generosity and our staff’s spending reductions, we have closed the gap to a deficit of \$45,000 at the end of May. Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of so many, through our ministries at Prince of Peace and through our outreach in the community and the world.

Thank you for your generosity and your partnership!

Pastor Jeff



  
**Prince of Peace**  
Lutheran Church