



10/18/2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In the next few days, we will begin a new stewardship emphasis titled **Living Wisely in An Unwise World**. In this four-week emphasis, we will examine the importance of following God's wisdom rather than the wisdom of the world. God promises that, when we ask in faith, He will give us His wisdom (James 1:5). James also shares the importance of God's wisdom. *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace"* (James 3:17-18). The world's wisdom causes *"Envy and selfish ambition... disorder and wickedness of every kind"* (verse 16). The empty wisdom of the world leads only to despair and bitterness.

This year's stewardship emphasis will focus on the wisdom that is needed to manage our time and money faithfully. Of all the gifts that God gives us, time and money are very likely the most difficult to manage in ways that give God glory. To help us understand the importance of using God's wisdom to manage our time, in week two we will focus on the theme, "Using Time Wisely." We know our days are limited, so we need to turn to God for wisdom so that we may faithfully use the days that we have. As wise people, we use our time to know and follow God's will. In the third week of our stewardship emphasis, our attention turns to money as our theme is "Becoming Money Wise." Jesus said, *"You cannot serve God and wealth"* (Matthew 6:24). In this verse, Jesus is identifying money as a rival master. We can serve only one master. Whether God gives us little or lots of money, we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can manage it wisely.

Enclosed is a commitment form for 2024 and a Time & Talent sheet for you to return on Commitment Sunday, which is November 19 (each person needs to complete a Time & Talent sheet separately. Additional copies can be downloaded from bethlutheran.org/printables and are also available at the church).

Please join us in the worship services and Bible studies during our emphasis. We pray that God will use this emphasis to draw us closer to Him. May God's blessings be with us as we faithfully steward the many blessings that God has entrusted to us.

Serving Christ together,

Pastor Matt



**Evangelical Lutheran
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God's work. Our hands.

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