A Moment For Stewardship – November 6, 2016

As you are most likely aware, today is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. I used to view this as the "day we promise to give our money to the church." For a good cause, of course. However, over the years I've realized that there is so much more to a Stewardship Commitment than just tithing a portion of your income. There are several ways that one can commit to being a good Steward of our Lord.

Yes, financials are important and appreciated. Your generous donations help keep our church running, our buildings maintained, and our grounds clear. It helps keep our church doors open for anyone who wants to hear the good news about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And while financials are important, there are other parts of tithing that are just as important.

The tithing of time is probably the most valuable gift you could ever give. Why? Because time is the one thing that you can never get back. And Stewardship – being a steward of God – is about more than just giving to your church. Think about your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors. Any time that you give to them, whether it be fellowship, providing a helping hand, or just a hearty and meaningful "good morning," is an act of stewardship. There are too many negatives in today's world. Anyone that can bring a positive spirit and brighten someone's day is being a grand Steward of God.

Every day you can make a decision to be a good Steward of God. How can you do that? By making the right choices. Say hello to a neighbor and ask how they are doing and if there is anything that they need. Perhaps bring them a meal or baked goods "just because."

Attend a Bible Study to hear more about the message of our Lord and the good news of eternal salvation. We have several that you can choose from, but I hear that the adult study on the second Sunday of every month is the most fun.

Spread the good news! Tell people why you are so jubilant! I've had people ask me why I'm so happy and positive all the time. My response is "How can I not be? I have God on my side. I'm team Jesus all the way!" Tell others the good news. Don't be afraid to talk about what you've learned in church to friends, family, and even total strangers.

Come to more worship services! Offer rides to people who may need them to attend a worship service. Listen to the message from our Pastor with an open heart and an open mind! Encourage those around you to do the same and lead by example.

Join a committee, become a deacon or an elder, or show up early to help at one of the many events this church hosts. All of these are ways that you can decide to be a good Steward every single day.

And yet, there is one more important than any of them and it is quite simply the easiest. There is one thing that every single person here today can do with ease and that's pray. Pray for our church. Pray for our leaders. Pray for your friends, family, and neighbors. Every day – ask God to provide them the same blessings that you are provided. The power of prayer works and if you are diligent with it, you will see the difference that it makes.

Let's make a difference right now. Let's utilize this Stewardship Commitment Sunday to commit to being the best Stewards of God that we can be today and every day henceforth. Let's help our neighbors, attend worship with open hearts, and pray for all those we know. Let's commit to making a difference.