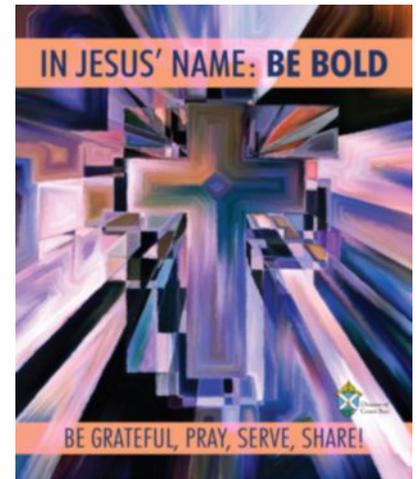


Celebrating Stewardship Sunday

November 11/12, 2017

Theme Background



THEME BACKGROUND

As human beings we have an idea what it means to intentionally do something for a loved one. We may be part of a heart or cancer walk to honor or in support of a family member, a dear friend or neighbor. When our loved ones pass, we often initiate or contribute to a memorial in the person's name. It is not unusual to hold words of wisdom as well as encounters with them deep in our hearts. Being in a relationship and knowing someone intimately often inspires us to act out of love, admiration and affection. So it is, with the life of a Christian.

This year's theme, *In Jesus' Name: Be Bold, Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share*, speaks to not only intentionally living out of gratefulness and love to honor the risen and ever present Jesus, but to do it in a bold manner. There is a question though, that we have to ask ourselves before we can boldly be "all-in" with living our lives in Jesus' Name. Jesus posed it to the Apostles. It comes from the Gospel of Matthew 16:13-20, "*And who do you say that I am?*" Who we believe Jesus is and the importance we place on being in relationship with him, will be in direct correlation to the boldness, gratitude and generosity in our lives. There truly are no shortcuts. Just as we invest in an act of love for a family member, friend or neighbor, our motives need to be authentic.

The pathway to becoming a boldly, generous steward is answering the question of who Jesus is in my own life. Is he Savior, friend, teacher, Lord? Has my life changed or am I different because of my encounters with Him? When I live my life for Him, do I experience joy and peace? Wherever we are at on the journey it is our perfect starting point for moving forward.

Many of us are familiar with ending our prayers with *In Jesus' Name* when we are praying for particular needs either privately or as a community. We follow the direction of Jesus in John 14:13-14; *And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.*

To be a Christian steward is to move from asking to include honoring by following in the footsteps of Jesus. We offer our gratitude in Jesus' name. We make time and space in His name to build our relationship with Him. We seek to understand our unique gifts to serve others in His name. We offer generous portions of our financial blessings in His name. We joyfully recall what Jesus has done for us and what He continues to do and we are not shy about it.

This journey is definitely worth celebrating! Everything in His Name! Happy Stewardship Weekend!