



## President's Office

### November Devotion

**“Jesus also said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’” Luke 16:1-2**

**Rev. Justin Panzer**, District President

You are a manager of the things that God entrusts to your care. By virtue of your Baptism into the Name of Christ, you are His own with “response-abilities” as a child in His Kingdom.

We are all managers, not owners. To use the term we might be more familiar with, we are all stewards, and everything that fills our lives, all the things which we call ours, are not really ours, they are God’s. God owns everything. He puts things in our care for a time, but they are His.

**What does it mean to be a good steward of the things that God has entrusted to your care?** It could be anything, from how you take care of your toys or clothes, to how you take care of your house or car, to what it is that you generously give back to God because of what He has first given to you.

If everything is a gift from God, then it matters what you do with that gift. In the parable, the dishonest manager uses his potential profit shrewdly. Knowing that he would not be around to collect his commission, he forgave that debt to all his master’s debtors, and in that way, when he lost his job, there would be many people who owed him a favor. The master couldn’t complain. Because the debtors had received this partial forgiveness as a gift, they were grateful for the generosity of both the master and the manager.

This is the only mercy that we have to cling to. It’s not that we deserve to be forgiven, but that God sent His Son to die for our sin and be raised for our salvation on the Third Day. The message of Good News is that God does have mercy on us for Jesus’ sake. This Good News is poured out abundantly upon us in the waters of Baptism. Christ gives you His body and blood to eat and drink where the forgiveness of sins is granted personally to you and me.

But it doesn’t stop there! Not only does God forgive us, He also gives us grace to change our old ways. He gives each and every one of us new and fresh starts in our Baptisms. As we hear His Word through worship, devotion, and Bible study; as we feast on His Sacrament, He gives Himself to us in such a way that we begin to live in a new way — His way — following the Savior on the way to heaven. By paying the price for us — not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death — Jesus has freed us from sin and death and liberated us from the idolatries of life.

**As God has blessed us in so many ways, everywhere we look there are needs to respond to with God’s gifts.** Think of how your generosity impacts the sharing of the Gospel of Christ. It provides for the preaching and administration of the Sacraments. It funds the Lutheran education of our children. It supports the work of local, national, and international mission opportunities. It provides for the education of future church workers. Your gifts also enable the Kansas District to continue our support of you in the mission that Christ has given us to do.

We live only by the mercies of God. We love and give only because He first loved and gave to us. Redeemed by Jesus, we belong to Him — body and soul — forever. **As forgiven sinners, we respond to the Word of the Lord with joy, knowing that only He is our source of life.**

*Devotions written by President Justin Panzer are the exclusive property of the LCMS Kansas District. Permission is granted to Kansas District congregations and schools to share these devotions with their members.*