

“Jesus said, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; their neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?’ ” -- Matt. 6:25-26

May 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Giving lies at the heart of the Christian message. Almost all the parables of Jesus center on the act of *giving*. Jesus himself was constantly giving to others, setting the stage for us to be “good givers” as well.

It’s so easy for us to turn in on ourselves and not give. It’s especially difficult when the price of everything seems to be going up. I remember how in 2004, when I was still living in St. Paul MN, I could fill my gas tank for around \$12.00. Now, unbelievably, it’s taking more than three times that dollar amount to fill it.

Another reason why it’s easy not to give is because the message that we get from the media is that “bigger is always better.” We are constantly being told we need a bigger house, a bigger car, and more of everything. It’s amazing to me how much “stuff” we accumulate in our lives that we don’t need.

When I was a pastor in New Jersey, I served a suburban congregation of about 800 members. One of the service projects we did with the children of the parish was to have all of them go through their stuffed animals and weed out all those they no longer wanted. As a result, we ended up with several garbage bags full of “good as new” stuffed animals. What did we do with them? We put them in boxes and sent them to the Lutheran church on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Imagine how overjoyed the Native American children at Pine Ridge were to receive those stuffed animals from New Jersey. It just goes to show how much abundance there really can be when we stop to think about it.

David and I believe that our God is a God of abundance, and giving to the church is an important part of our lives. We have found the “Simply Giving” program to be a good way to remember our pledge to the church. Trinity Glenburn has been participating in this program for five years now. “Simply Giving” is as simple as it sounds. Each month, a certain amount is taken directly from our account and placed in the church’s account. That way, when our lives get busy and it would be easy for us to forget to give to the church, it’s taken care of automatically. It gives us peace of mind to know that our pledge is made regularly via the “Simply Giving” program.

In Matthew 6:25-26, Jesus says that God will supply the necessities for our lives, and so we should not worry. Jesus asks us to have faith that God will see us through the lean times. I remember my mother telling a story about how one Christmas during the Depression there was no money for her family to buy presents. So one of her aunts went up into the attic and found toys and other items that had been tossed aside and forgotten. She wrapped those up and gave them out to the family as Christmas presents. Everyone was happy that they received gifts even when times were hard.

Indeed, our God is a God of abundance. In this Season of Easter, as we celebrate how Jesus gave his life for us, let us pray that God will help us to find the abundance in our lives and discover new ways to share it.

In Christ,
Pastor Heather

COMING UP . . .

Sun. May 1 – In Glenburn, we will celebrate the baptisms of Caleb, Brooke and Miretta Clementich, children of Chris and Jenny Clementich.

Wed. May 4 – We will hold our last Confirmation class for this year after school. Students will tour Thompson Larson Funeral Home in Minot and then we will have supper at Planet Pizza.

Sun. May 8 – Happy Mother's Day! Today we will have four baptisms in the Parish. At Lansford, Cole Martin and Ryder Undlin will be baptized. At Glenburn, we will baptize Jax Tarvestad and Sam Wipf.

Sun. May 15 – YOUTH SUNDAY. On this day we will have "Dunamos Ministries" with us. Mike Ewoldsen is a champion heavy weight lifter, and he and his wife will share about their Christian faith with us in worship. After worship in Glenburn, we will plant a tree in memory of Wyatt Heinle. (Please note: On this day Glenburn's service time will switch to 10:30 am for the summer.)