



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Small Stewards—Big Blessings

Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

“Small Stewards” focuses on Biblical stories celebrating God’s children. The lessons can be shared with children in Sunday school openings, classroom settings, children’s worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lessons may also be used for family devotions. “Notes to Family” offers applications and explorations for home “table talks.”

Text: Luke 1:39–45 (Child: John the Baptist)

The earliest Scriptural recorded response to Jesus was that of John, the fetus in Elizabeth’s womb, “For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:44) Certainly Luke’s Gospel shares a life message. Elizabeth’s womb held more than a mass of cells. Elizabeth who had been surprised with a pregnancy in her late years, was carrying John who would also be called “the Baptist” and who would personally and powerfully introduce Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”(John 1:29)

The leap of John would be the first of many leaps of joy. Shepherds would leap as an angel chorus proclaimed the Savior’s birth; aged Simeon and Anna would leap in temple halls; the diseased and distraught would help as Jesus touched them and pronounced them forgiven and healed; tax collector and Roman centurions would leap as they saw a Savior for all sinners; grieving women would leap at an angels announcement that the tomb was empty because Jesus had risen from the dead. The leap of John starts the leap through the Gospels and invites us to join in leaping for joy.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) joins in holy leaping. The mission and ministry of LCEF is to provide funds and services for the extension of the Gospel. The resources of investors make it possible for schools and churches to be built and remodeled as places for Gospel leaping.

LCEF encourages children to leap as learners, worshippers and stewards. The Young Investor Club provides children an opportunity to invest in the kingdom, learn the basics of stewardship, and to receive a generous interest on the investment. Seeing an account grow is another reason to leap for joy. Parents, grandparents, and others can learn more at www.lcef.org. Y.I. Club investments make great Christmas gifts!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may I join all creation in leaping at your birth.

“Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rock, hills, and plans, Repeat the sounding joy.” Amen

Small Steward Bring Big Blessings Home—Notes to Family

Why did John leap for joy? When and why do your family members leap for joy? How will the joy of Jesus be celebrated in your family this Advent and Christmas season?

Parents, it is important that your children are joy leapers as worshippers. Make Advent family devotional times a daily priority. Take your children to the special Advent and Christmas services to share their joy with others.