

Hope Lutheran Church Stewardship Journey Update

September 2011

A few days ago I left work anticipating a normal commute home. However I encountered a change in my route due to a natural gas leak and after that another change due to road construction. Further down the road I encountered traffic accident and that all too familiar whine crept into my head: *"Are we there yet?"*

How many times have you heard that on a car trip...usually out of the mouth of a child, the younger they are the less patience they have and the longer the ride seems. The anticipation of the final destination seem to make time move more slowly and each detour more frustrating. I found myself needing to take a deep breath, pull over, stretch my legs and grab a snack. Once I did that I turned on my GPS because I wasn't sure where I was and the rest of the ride was much smoother, but not over. The final detour, which was a funeral procession, didn't even bother me. In fact, that only made me count my blessings until I reached my much anticipated driveway.

As I pondered what to write in this letter I found myself reflecting on the similarities of that journey and my stewardship journey. I start my journey with plans, whether they are financial commitments, volunteering to use my talents on various project or things that require time. Sometimes my trips/plans are smooth and as expected but often challenges get in the way and force me to change my plans. At first the change is accepted well, but soon my frustration builds with each obstacle and maybe even angers me or makes me regret the decision I made to go down that path in the first place. "Are we there yet" creeps into my mind.

Am I an impatient Christian who continues to ask the dreaded question over and over, whining with each disappointment? Or when the question arises do I take a breath (pray), stretch my legs (enjoy fellowship with other Christians), grab some food (read and employ scripture & devotions), and turn on my GPS (God's Positioning System)? Then I can feel refreshed and able to meet those challenges, appreciative and willing to share my many blessings and bounties.

Before I know it this particular 3 year journey will end and be forgotten. But just as I will get in the car tomorrow with yet another destination in mind, my stewardship journey will continue another day until there are no more days for me. The paths and destinations, however, will continue to change. So keep your GPS updated. Keep looking for new ways to use your God-given gifts because the final destination is waiting for us; God's open arms when he welcomes us home.

I pray for you on your journey as well as my own, and I ask that you do the same.
Leigh Ann Hargreave

July 2011 Contributions: \$15,252.71	Total Contributions: \$742,382.91
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Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Growing in
Christ



Building with
Faith