

# Clippings

*Newsletter of Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
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I ran across a quote recently at Lutherans for Life, the premier Lutheran organization promoting Biblical outlooks on life matters, that resonates well with what we've been hearing a lot in the sermons lately, that God is still working His purposes out, and He is using the Church to do it.

“God’s love edifies. It gives life. And you, my friend, are in the people business. You’ve been placed on this earth to share what people need most: enduring, true, life-edifying, divine love. You have been freed from a task-driven, striving-for-self-worth existence. God has called you His own. He has declared you precious in His sight and proven it by giving up His Only Son so you could be His own. Now you represent Him here on earth. You give what He has given you.”

*Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, speaker on The Lutheran Hour*

*—A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

(Dr. Seltz is familiar to the men in our Man UP! group; we’ve used many Lutheran Hour videos for our Bible studies.) “You give what He has given you,” he says. That challenges us to stop complaining about what we DON’T have, and start tasking our thought with what we DO have—and how to put it to work for Him.

We will enjoy many of His gifts this summer, and I hope we are grateful. I hope we are working at becoming more grateful! This month, for example, we celebrate the birth of our nation, and just think of the many blessings that are ours because we had the good fortune to be born in this country.

That’s an example of “what He has given you.” How can we give in response, and continue His gracious outpouring of blessing? We can give our time and attention to the responsibilities of citizenship in a participatory Republic like ours. We can honor those who serve in the administration of these blessings, and obey them whenever their demands don’t conflict with God’s commands. (Remember what Jesus said, “Give to Caesar’s what is Caesar’s, and give to God what is God’s”). We can give thanks for the rule of law, seek to uphold it in our daily behavior, and offer counsel and encouragement to all those who (as our prayers say) “make, judge, and enforce our laws.” Yes, that means that Christians have a duty to write to your congressman, and to take an interest in what happens in town, in the township, and in Lansing. We give, because He gave to us.

If you’re saying, “Well, that ain’t nothing but good ol’ Christian stewardship,” give yourself a gold star and move to the head of the class! —Oh, right, school’s out. Well, pat yourself on the back then, and help yourself to another bratwurst from the grill!

*~Pastor Fremer*