

God's Draft Choices—You're On His Team!

*"Called by God to Lives that Matter"—2012 Stewardship Theme
Steward-Disciples Grow in their Involvement, Commitment and Generosity*

One of the most highly watched sporting events on television is not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather it involves the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL). That happened just last week. For many hours, fans of professional sports watched intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by a professional football team, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"* (John 15:16).

God has made us a part of His team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things.

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are." (1 Cor. 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on His life-saving work. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."* (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us—clay

jars—with this treasure—the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Cor. 5:17). It is God who does the

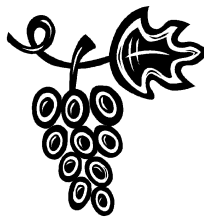
drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive a large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's

service for His glory. Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (Ephesians 2:10).

Consider where you might serve and give of your time and talents, skill or knowledge in one of the many ministries of our congregation, St Mark. Consider what board or committee you might volunteer to be a part of as we elect officers, boards and leaders. What a privilege it is to be part of, and serving on, God's winning team! *By Rev Ron Cheurning, adapted by Pastor Beyer*

Called by God....



Lives that Matter
John 15:16

WORSHIP

**Sunday, May 6, 2012—8:15 & 11:00am
The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:15am - *Praise Music Worship w/Praise Team*

11:00am - *Divine Service (traditional)*

Pastor Jim Bothwell will be our guest preacher and Pastor Beyer will lead the worship and share a Kid's Chat. The Praise Team supplies music at 8:15 am; and Jerilyn Mueller will be at the organ for 11 am.

WORSHIP

**Sunday, May 13, 2012—8:15 & 11:00am
Mothers Day Observance—Easter 6**

8:15am - *Worship w/Holy Comm (Haugen)*

11:00am - *Worship w/Holy Comm (Haugen)*

Pastor Beyer will preach as we continue to explore the meaning of the resurrected Jesus Christ in our lives today. Pastor Durham will lead the worship and officiate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Mom's will be honored.

WORSHIP