ON LOAN FROM GOD

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. . ."

Possession is nine-tenths of the law. Many a toddler has engaged in a tug-o-war with another over a toy shouting "it's mine!" As we age, we learn to "mark" what we consider ours with labels, etching, etc. If ever there is a dispute of ownership, our marking becomes our proof of ownership. There is even a "legal" way to have proof or ownership such as having a car or property title where the ownership is recorded by the state recorder of deeds office. Owning does not have to be taught. It is just a natural part of our inner nature.

Is it not, however, more accurate when speaking about "your possessions" to speak of them as "on loan from God?" The Psalmist reminds us that even the basic needs of life come from God, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing." (Psalm 145:15-16)

Your sinful nature, egged on by the Devil, wants to take credit for your achievements and possessions. While one bedroom may be sufficient, having four or five bedrooms with four or five bathrooms seems to be the goal of many. There is the temptation for each of us to brag, swagger, and boast. 2 Corinthians 10:17 says, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Why boast in the Lord? You cannot take your next breath unless the Lord provides the air you will breathe. You cannot take your next drink unless the Lord waters the earth from the heavens. You cannot think your next thought unless the Lord gives you the intellect needed to do so. In the end then all you have is from God. "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep." (Psalm 127:1-2)

Prayer: Lord God, in Your grace and mercy You open Your hands and satisfy our desires. You cause the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. You cause sown seeds to germinate sending seasons, sunshine and all needed for crops to grow

for us to have food to eat. O give thanks unto You, O Lord, for You give good gifts and Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Oh, victory! Loud shouting army! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain: He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Flowers and trees! Loud rushing dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:

Children of God, Dying and rising, Sing to the Lord a new song!
Heaven and earth, Hosts everlasting. Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain:
(LSB 817)