

Some resources to get you started on stewardship in the congregation

Beginning Stewardship Campaigns

Ecumenical Stewardship Center, "Giving: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation."

An annual stewardship publication which includes a template for a 4-week stewardship campaign. You can contact the Ecumenical Stewardship Center at (855) 278-4372 or www.stewardshipresources.org.

Lane, Charles R. "Walk with Jesus: An Annual Stewardship Response Program." 16 November 2015 <http://resources.elca.org/Stewardship-A_Walk_with_Jesus.html>. Cost \$20.

A good, simple stewardship program, designed especially for smaller congregations.

---. "Because of God's Great Mercy." 16 November 2015 <embracingstewardship.com>. Cost \$20.

Another good, basic stewardship program. One nice feature: it gives people a simple way to increase their giving by ½-1% each year.

Grimm, Eugene. "The Celebrate Generosity Stewardship Program." 16 November 2015 <http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Celebrate_Generosity.pdf>. Cost \$0.

Solid, straightforward 4-week stewardship campaign. This was the first program I used in my congregation (Calvary, Bluffton). The PDF contains all of the files and resources you will need. Best of all, it's free!

Marcuson, Margaret. "The Finances and Faith System." 16 November 2015 <<http://margaretmarcuson.com/financesandfaith/>>. Cost \$97.

A "pre-stewardship program." During this 29-day program, you invite your congregation to be involved in four daily spiritual practices: pray, meditate on a passage of Scripture related to faith and finances, track their daily income and spending (for their own eyes only), and give thanks to God for the flow of God's resources in their lives. The rest of the program is structured similar to a standard campaign.

More Advanced Stewardship Campaigns

"Stewards of God's Love: A Year-Round Guide to Stewardship in Your Congregation." 16 November 2015 <http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Stewards_Of_Gods_Love_Resource_and_Inserts.pdf>. Cost \$0.

This resource gives a template for doing a year-round stewardship emphasis. Each quarter of the year has a particular theme: "Down," how God comes down to us in love; "In," how we are stewards of one another; "Out," reaching out into the community; and the standard stewardship campaign.

“Rediscover Macedonia.” 16 November 2015

<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Macedonia_Brochure.pdf>. *No cost to download; a CD containing all the resources costs \$5.*

Rediscover Macedonia is a collection of resources based around 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. The materials are excellent theologically, but they are not “user-friendly”: be prepared to do some prep work if you want to use this in your context!

Books

Chatzky, Jean. *Money Rules: The Simple Path to Lifelong Security*. New York: Rodale, 2012. ISBN 978-1-60961-860-5.

A great guidebook for personal finance, though not from a religious perspective. We would all avoid much heartache if we followed the principles Chatzky presents in this book!

Christopher, J. Clif. *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008. ISBN 978-0-687-64853-5.

An excellent read, filled with challenging, “out-of-the-box” thinking for congregations.

---. *Whose Offering Plate Is It? New Strategies for Financial Stewardship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2010. ISBN 978-1-4267-1013-1.

Great follow-on book to Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate. Answers important stewardship questions which Christopher received from pastors and lay leaders following publication of his earlier book.

---. *Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-4336-8.

Another excellent follow-on book to Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate. Makes explicit connections between the congregation’s mission and its financial stewardship.

Hamilton, Adam. *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*. Revised Ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4267-4207-1.

The one book I have found which combines some decent theology with practical financial advice. My congregation used this book and its supporting resources for our 2014 stewardship campaign.

Herman, John D. *Imagine a New Economy: Biblical Reflections on Money and Possessions*. Mechanicsville, VA: Rambling Star, 2016. ISBN 978-0692619322.

This book is designed as a 13-week study for individual devotions or small group discussions. Each day includes Scripture reference(s), some commentary from leading theologians, and questions with space for you to write your responses. I have found it engaging and valuable for my personal discipleship.

Hewitt, Brad and James Moline. *Your New Money Mindset: Create a Healthy Relationship with Money*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2015. ISBN 978-1-4964-0780-1.

The purpose of this book is “to offer a radically different solution” to money troubles – “before you can remake your habits, you need to remake your heart” (19). Gives some thought-provoking, scripturally based ideas regarding our habits with money. An excellent read!

Lane, Charles R. *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006. ISBN 0-8066-5263-2.

This book presents the most solid theological understanding of stewardship I have read. It is not as strong in the area of practical implementation.

Lane, Charles R. and Grace D. Pomeroy. *Embracing Stewardship*. <www.embracingstewardship.com>. ISBN 978-0-692-57723-3.

This book combines solid theological understandings of stewardship, practical advice for strengthening a congregation’s stewardship ministry, and a multigenerational approach to stewardship. A valuable read for stewardship teams and congregation councils.

Marcuson, Margaret. “Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books while Keeping Your Balance.” Portland, OR: Marcuson Leadership Circle, 2014. ISBN 978-0-9764366-4-5.

This book looks at leadership in stewardship from the perspective of Bowen Family Systems Theory. I have long been interested in leadership, stewardship, and BFST, so I found this book extremely helpful!

Magazines/Periodicals/Booklets

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “Stories of Faith in Action.”

One of the best resources out there for connecting our offerings to the wider church’s mission. I recommend handing this booklet out as part of your stewardship campaign.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “Money Leadership for Thriving Congregations.” Three booklets: (1) Leader Guide, (2) Participant Book, and (3) “Daily Devotions for Money Leadership.”

An excellent resource which I-K is using in its “Growing Steward Leaders” retreats for rostered leaders. Could be used at the congregational level as well. There is a charge for these books: call the ELCA Stewardship Office for pricing.

---, “Awakening to God’s Call to Earthkeeping.”

Stewardship of creation is an essential, but often overlooked, component of our lives as stewards. Stewardship of creation also appeals to young adults in powerful ways. This is a four-session Bible study on the care of creation.

Websites and Other Resources

ELCA Stewardship Website: <www.elca.org/stewardship>

Contains numerous stewardship programs and resources, including their newest resources, "Rediscover Macedonia: A Spirit of Gratitude and Generosity" and "Stewards of God's Love."

Powell, Mark Allan. *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006. ISBN 978-0-8028-2926-9.

An enjoyable book on stewardship by one of the most prolific Lutheran writers today. Powell interjects humor, quality Bible study, and some challenging ideas into his work.

Stewardship of Life Institute: <www.stewardshipoflife.org>

Excellent website from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. They also put out a free weekly email with insightful articles and valuable links to other resources.

Stewardship for the 21st Century. <www.luthersem.edu/stewardship>

Excellent website from Luther Seminary. Includes a searchable "Stewardship Resource Database" with almost 1,200 articles and items. They also have a free email with an insightful article each week. Hosts an annual Stewardship Conference at Luther Seminary.

Dave Ramsey materials and website: <www.daveramsey.com>

Mr. Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" is used widely by churches of various denominations, often with powerful results. His financial advice is solid, but his theological and political viewpoints are sometimes at odds with Lutheran understanding.

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