

MORE ON STEWARDSHIP

First of all, take a look at the *Make It Simple* program on the ELCA website www.elca.org/stewardship. It is free, practical and thorough, and its focus on simplifying life and generous living is one that is spiritual healthy and challenging. This resource includes four themes, sermon and temple talk outlines, bible studies/ discussions, a stewardship 101 educational piece, program alternatives with step by step guidelines, learning events, templates for letters, video clips and children's resources.

Our Synod has created a new page on its website www.ewaisynod.org/stewardship and it will be continually updated with Stewardship ideas and resources.

In the coming months there will be meetings throughout the synod for all pastors, and for lay people who are skilled in or passionate about stewardship. Invite people you know who would be an asset to such an event or who want to know more about stewardship. Each pastor will receive a letter to inform them of the nearest meeting and they will also be posted on the Synod website. The purpose is to connect with each other and discuss stewardship, share information/ resources, build skills and develop strategies that will benefit each congregation, the synod and ELCA churchwide. The events will hopefully inspire those who attend in a way that is contagious. We will share stories.

- Dr. Mark Allen Powell, our Synod Assembly speaker has written an inspiring book called *"Giving to God"*, and in the Fall a DVD course on financial stewardship called *"Biblical Stewardship: Duty and Delight"* will be available through www.selectlearning.org
- *"Ask, Thank, Tell"* by Charles Lane is practical and great.
- *"Growing Givers Hearts: Treating Fundraising as Ministry"* by Thomas Jeavons and Rebekah Burch Basinger. We can learn from the nonprofit organizational world.
- *"The Power of Asset Mapping"* is a practical book that can help discern the gifts of the church as a whole, which in turn helps to discern vision and direction for the church.
- Use dramas for stewardship from a book called *"Thankful Stewards"*. You can read them first on www.elca.org/stewardship/teaching which has a whole range of resources.

Now for a few random thoughts and questions for you to ponder and use:

- How does one go from impulse giving to generous living?
- How did you come to be generous? What turning point transformed you inside to want to be a giving person? Did you have to work at it? What do you still need to overcome?
- Pray at home and in the church regularly for generous givers that make ministry thrive.
- Begin to think of new business ventures that could widen and diversify the revenue streams that support your ministries.
- Ask friends/neighbors that don't go to church for a contribution to your church's ministry of hospitality and explain how it is worth their contributing. (Inspired by Luke 11:5-9)

"High per capita giving congregations discuss time/talent stewardship during a different month than they schedule the annual financial campaign"[If they are] "at the same time it causes some people to treat them like a multiple-choice question." Herb Miller

In spite of the economic crisis, or because of it - it is a joy to be able to give to others and to ministries whose work we believe in. **Whenever you have the impulse to give – listen to it and act.**

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