

## Are You Ready?

If you are uncertain whether your congregation is ready to participate in this workshop series, a positive response to three or more of the following questions will provide an indication:

- Are people in your congregation uncomfortable talking about money in church?
- Is your congregation stuck in scarcity thinking?
- Are you looking for new steward leaders to emerge?
- Has congregational giving been flat or declined?
- Are your leaders uncomfortable asking people to make a financial response?
- Has your congregation used the same response method for two or more years?
- Are you ready to move from an annual response to year round stewardship?
- Is maintaining the momentum of year round stewardship a challenge?



For additional information about *Ventures in Growing Stewards*, contact Pr. Helga Jansons, Director for Evangelical Mission, at 509-380-7122. Or contact one of our trained Ventures Leaders:

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## Delight in the Giving

*Moved by the extravagance of God!*

*2 Corinthians 9*

Growing a stewardship ministry in your life and in your congregation!

## What Is Ventures?

*Ventures in Growing Stewards* is a four-part workshop series that develops a vision and plan for growing stewards through a year-round stewardship ministry. The process is organic in that each congregation develops an approach to fit their context and culture. With a trained leader provided by the synod, a cluster of six to eight congregations journey together for ten months. Each congregation has a team of four to six people. Eight different annual financial response alternatives are provided. The results have included spiritual renewal, developing a team-based approach to ministry, increases in regular giving, and growth in mission interpretation and support.

For more than ten years, the ELCA has offered a workshop entitled *Ventures*. Over this period more than 600 congregations and 3,000 leaders in more than thirty ELCA synods have learned how to grow faithful stewards and increase giving. For many congregations this experience included moving from a “paying the bills” approach to stewardship to a healthier response of “living the mission”.

***“God loves it when the giver  
delights in the giving.”***

***2 Corinthians 9:7 (The Message)***

## Why Do Ventures?

The basic objectives of the *Ventures in Growing Stewards* are:

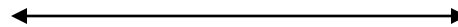
Build a foundation for growing good stewards of all ages to understand grace, gratitude and generosity through practical learning and skill development.

Ignite personal spiritual growth while creating enthusiasm for being an evangelizing congregation.

Equip congregational leaders in developing a vision and plan for living faith practices and strengthening year round ministry.

Accompany leaders in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a year round ministry, including an invitation for an annual financial response and planned giving.

Foster stronger relationships within and among communities of faith as part of a common faith and mission.



As part of this workshop series, participants will receive tools to grow in their personal stewardship and resources to teach others. Each participant will receive online access to assessment tools, education materials, communication elements and response methods. These, along with on-going personal coaching, will be helpful in completing the assignments between workshops and in implementing a year round plan.

## How Does Ventures Work?

These objectives are achieved through a series of four workshops.

- **Workshop I** Six Hours
  - Assess current stewardship understandings and culture.
  - Introduce Five Essential Nutrients for a holistic approach to a year round stewardship ministry
  - Learn basic guidelines to effective annual financial response
- **Workshop II** Two Hours
  - Conduct asset mapping activity and apply results to congregational planning
  - Develop a vision for growing stewards and being missional
  - Receive training in a financial response method
- **Workshop III** Two Hours
  - Explore competencies of a well-formed steward
  - Learn stages of steward leader development
  - Integrate dialogical education principles into activities
- **Workshop IV** Two Hours
  - Share results and learnings from annual financial response
  - Build a case for Mission Support
  - Learn how to develop a Missional Spending Plan and do Missional Messaging

Registration cost for the 10 month series is based on average worship attendance. Some scholarship funds may be available.